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PNA nears agreement with Hamas

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) is nearing a deal with the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement that could end its attacks on Israelis, a Palestinian official said Sunday. "I hope we will be able to reach an agreement in the near future," said Hisham Abdul Razak, a senior PNA official who negotiates with Hamas. The deal would end Hamas attacks on Israelis in Israel, Israeli-held and Palestinian-run areas, he said. He did not specify what the PNA was offering in return. Mr. Abdul Razak was quoted by Israeli newspaper Yediot Ahronot as saying that the recent bus bombings also sought to force the PNA to give Hamas a share of power. Yediot quoted Mr. Abdul Razak as saying that Hamas aimed "to pass on a clear message to the PNA that if you don't reach an agreement with us we will make sure that you will not reach the stage of (Israeli) redeployment" from the West Bank. The PNA has been conducting a dialogue with the Hamas for several months, despite a crackdown on the group's militants. Yediot said the PNA was delaying an agreement with Hamas for fear that Israel opposed it.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية للرأي

Volume 19 Number 6011

AMMAN MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1995, RABI' ALTHA- NI 9, 1416

Price: Jordan 150 Fds

U.N. serves ultimatum to Serbs

Remove heavy guns, clear Mount Igman and allow free access or face renewed NATO strikes, Mladic warned

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Rebuffed again by the Bosnian Serbs, aggravated North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) leaders gave the rebels a choice Sunday: Remove heavy guns and end the 3½-year siege of Sarajevo or face more punishing airstrikes.

Western diplomats and U.N. officials said the Serbs have until 11 p.m. (2100 GMT) Monday to comply.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke said "the bombs will recommence to fall" Monday if the Bosnian Serbs do not comply with the conditions set by the U.N. commander.

In an interview with ABC television, Mr. Holbrooke said the timing of a resumption of NATO air strikes would be worked out by NATO commander Admiral Leighton Smith and U.N. commander General Bernard Janvier of France.

Asked about apparent discrepancies between NATO and the United Nations on when the deadline for Serb compliance is set, Mr. Holbrooke said, "tomorrow sounds like ours to me."

In a letter to Bosnian Serb commander General Ratko Mladic, Gen. Janvier deman-

ded that Serb attacks on Sarajevo cease, that their heavy weapons be withdrawn 20 kilometres from the city and that U.N. peacekeepers have freedom of movement and unrestricted access to the Sarajevo airport.

"The clock is ticking and I assure you the bombs will recommence to fall if Mladic does not agree to the Janvier principles in his letter," Mr. Holbrooke said.

In a separate interview with CNN, Mr. Holbrooke said there was unanimous support at a meeting of NATO ministers in Brussels Saturday night for the ultimatum to the Serbs.

"Each nation spoke. Each nation supported the American position. The U.N. supported it. The French were especially strong," he said.

The United Nations' letter to Gen. Mladic contained three demands:

— Attacks on Sarajevo and three other U.N.-declared safe areas, Tuzla, Gorazde and Bihać, stop immediately.

— The Serbs must withdraw their heavy weapons outside of a 20-kilometre zone around Sarajevo.

— Complete freedom of movement must be restored for international aid orga-

nisations and U.N. personnel around Sarajevo. The Serbs must permit the airport, closed since April, to reopen.

"The letter made clear to Gen. Mladic what needs to be done, and he now knows very well how much time he has before NATO and the U.N. assess his compliance with the demands," U.N. spokesman Chris Gunness said.

It also warned that if Serbs attack any safe area, airstrikes would resume immediately, he said.

Seeking to keep up the pressure, U.N. officials on Sunday reopened a road connecting the besieged Bosnian capital with the outside world via the dangerous Mount Igman road.

Traffic snaking along the 1.5-kilometre mountain route is subject to Serb fire. The route has not been open to commercial trucks bringing goods into the city or private cars for months.

"We have agreed with the Bosnian government to ensure traffic can enter and leave the city without problems tomorrow," said U.N. spokesman Guy Vinet in Sarajevo. "We don't believe we need Serb assurances at this moment. We don't have

their assurances, but we intend to do it."

The route is protected by the rapid reaction force of British, French and Dutch soldiers who shelled Bosnian Serb targets around Sarajevo last week.

However, the main roads in and out of Sarajevo, held by rebel Serbs, remained closed.

Western diplomats to Sarajevo said Sunday that NATO and U.N. officials had had lengthy discussions about targets and coordinating the activities of NATO jets and the artillery of the U.N. rapid reaction force near Sarajevo.

Speaking on NBC television, Adm. Smith, said Gen. Mladic should "wake up to reality."

"They have very little time in which to make a decision to start showing progress on this, and it's up to them when the bombing starts, if it should start again," Adm. Smith said. He called the demands non-negotiable.

Gen. Mladic on Friday demanded an end to NATO flights over Bosnia, and said there would be no attacks on safe areas if the United Nations ensured Bosnian government forces did not attack

from within them.

The streets of Sarajevo were quiet Sunday, with no reports of sniping or shelling. U.N. officials said they had no reports of attacks on the other safe areas: Tuzla, in the north, Gorazde, a surrounded enclave in the south-east, or Bihać, in the far northwest.

But they also said there was no indication the Serbs were pulling their weapons back.

NATO countries launched airstrikes Wednesday in response to Serb shelling of Sarajevo two days earlier that killed 38 people. They suspended the attacks Friday to give Bosnian Serbs a chance to comply with U.N. demands.

Croatia, Bosnia and Serbia Yugoslavia agreed to send their foreign ministers to Geneva for peace talks Thursday. But Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic said Bosnia might pull out of peace talks in Geneva if NATO and the United Nations compromised with the Bosnian Serbs.

Adm. Smith said damage caused so far by the bombing campaign was "quite substantial" although information was limited.



ANTI-NUCLEAR PROTEST: More than 2,000 local and foreign anti-nuclear protesters march through Papeete, capital of Tahiti in French Polynesia, on Saturday to protest the French nuclear testing in Mururoa atoll, about 1,000 kilometres southeast of Papeete. Delegates from Japan, Australia, New Zealand and Europe joined the rally organised by a Polynesian pro-independence group (AFP photo)

Work under way on Tapline, but no indication of oil supply

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Maintenance work under way on an oil pipeline from Saudi Arabia to Jordan is a routine annual exercise and does not indicate any immediate Saudi plan to resume oil supplies to Amman after a five-year hiatus, Jordanian officials and company executives said Sunday.

They said the maintenance work on the Trans-Arabian Pipeline (Tapline) that began weeks ago and had no bearing with recent developments that have raised the possibility of Saudi Arabia replacing Iraq as Jordan's oil supplier.

"We are doing our routine work that aims at keeping the pipeline in shape and in operational conditions as we do periodically," said a Tapline executive reached in the com-

pany's offices in Dhahran. "If there is a government decision to pump oil through the pipeline to Jordan, then we are not aware of it," added the executive, who declined to be identified.

"I've no information on the pipeline or oil," said Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Samir Darwazah. He declined further comment, but suggested a check with him later.

Other Jordanian sources also said the repair work was routine and that they were not aware of any Jordanian-Saudi discussions on resuming Saudi oil supply to Jordan.

"Not just yet," was the comment of an official, when asked Jordan was seeking Saudi oil.

Reuters, which first reported the maintenance work, quoted diplomatic sources as saying that the

pipeline could carry Saudi oil and end Jordan's dependence on Iraq for the Kingdom's oil needs.

The Saudi government closed the pipeline, which can carry 70,000-80,000 barrels of oil per day, on Sept. 19, 1990, in retaliation for what Riyadh perceived as Jordan's support for Iraq following the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

The pipeline had actually been operational for 19 days after the Saudis promised to pump one million barrels of oil to Jordan in return for what is expected to be a Jordanian role in the international coalition against Iraq.

In any event, Saudi oil supplies to Jordan had only accounted for less than 15 per cent of Jordan's annual needs before the closure of the pipeline Iraq used to supply

(Continued on page 7)

Assad, Mubarak dismiss impact of Iraqi defection

Syrian leader says peace talks stalled

CAIRO (Agencies) — The presidents of Syria and Egypt, key Arab allies in the coalition that defeated Iraq in 1991, said Sunday they did not expect the downfall of Saddam Hussein despite the defection last month of senior Iraqi officials.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad also said he was not optimistic about progress in the stalled peace talks with Israel, which he said were in a "state of stagnation."

Asked at a joint press conference following talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak if he was optimistic about the Israeli-Syrian talks, Mr. Assad said, "No."

"The talks are in a state of stagnation," Mr. Assad said. But he ruled out raising the talks to the level of foreign ministers, saying, "Israel has repeatedly made (that re-

quest). It would have the opposite effect and could complicate (talks) more."

Most of the Israeli proposals and demands are outside the framework of international resolutions. We must work within these resolutions, not outside them, and commit ourselves" to implementing them, Mr. Assad said.

Israeli and Syrian chiefs of staff last met in Washington in June.

Israeli television said on Saturday that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher may make a new shuttle to the Middle East in late September in a bid to unblock the Syrian-Israeli peace process.

Mr. Assad and Mr. Mubarak described as exaggerated the threat posed to President Saddam by Gen. Hussein

Kamel Hassan, his brother and their wives, both President Saddam's daughters, who fled to Jordan on Aug. 8.

"Some people had high hopes but I do not think that he is as big as the media has made him out to be," President Assad said of Lieutenant-General Hassan.

The comments by Mr. Assad and Mr. Mubarak after three-and-a-half hours of talks mirrored the cautious stance both have taken since the defections. The two countries were prominent U.S. allies during the 1991 Gulf war, but they have since warned against meddling in Iraq's internal affairs.

Egypt, in particular, has tried to bring Iraq back into the Arab fold. Last month,

(Continued on page 7)

Israel, PLO resume talks despite split over Hebron

EILAT (Agencies) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) resumed talks here Sunday on extending Palestinian self-rule despite deep divisions over an Israeli army withdrawal from the flashpoint town of Hebron.

Negotiators are trying to nail down a deal for extending autonomy on the West Bank which is already 13 months behind schedule and is to include an Israeli army pullback, a transfer of civilian powers and elections to a self-rule council.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin met Sunday with the main Israeli negotiators before the talks, which were set to start later on the Red Sea coast, officials said.

Both sides hope to reach agreement on most of the outstanding issues this week before PLO leader Yasser Arafat and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres meet to tackle the thorniest problems.

"The Eilat negotiations are

almost finished but there are still a few problems which will be transferred for a political decision to Peres and Arafat and then possibly to the prime minister and Arafat," said Israeli chief negotiator Uri Savir.

Once they reach a deal, an official signing ceremony is due to be held by the end of September in Washington, which hosted the 1993 signing of the declaration of principles for autonomy.

Partial accords have been hammered out in the past two months, but deep differences remain over Hebron, prisoner releases and holding elections in Jerusalem.

Israel has proposed that Palestinians in East Jerusalem vote by mail in elections for a self-rule council, but the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) wants polling booths in the city, negotiators said Sunday.

A compromise is being discussed that would allow residents in East Jerusalem to

vote at post offices, where they would place their ballots in envelopes.

But Israel is demanding "stamped envelopes" to assure that ballots are being sent to a Palestinian self-rule area and that the voting is not taking place in East Jerusalem.

Israel agreed in 1993 to allow the 160,000 Palestinians living in Jerusalem to participate in elections for a self-rule council.

Although Israel has agreed to withdraw its troops from most of the West Bank towns in line with the autonomy accords struck with the PLO, it is refusing to leave Hebron, where 400 Jewish settlers live amid 110,000 Palestinians.

Israel wants to retain control of security in the town, while allowing Palestinian police to be deployed only in districts where there are no settlers.

The settlers in turn have

(Continued on page 7)

PLO says Libya ousted 450 Palestinians

GAZA (R) — A group of 450 Palestinians — the first of 30,000 that Libya has decided to expel — has been stranded on the Libyan-Egyptian border for the past 10 days, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said on Sunday.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi said in a speech at the weekend the expulsions would expose what he called the failure of the PLO-Israel peace deal by forcing millions of Palestinians to return to PLO-controlled areas — a move he predicted Israel would reject.

The PLO official, who asked not to be identified, said Libya had ejected a first group of 450 to the border with Egypt. He said Egypt had barred their entry and Libya would not take them back.

The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in charge of Gaza and the West Bank enclave of Jericho, demanded on Sunday an immediate halt to the expulsions.

"The PNA cabinet denounces that Libyan government's measures against our Palestinian people which violate Arab ethics and mutual interests of the two brotherly peoples," said Tayeb Abdul Rahim, general secretary of the authority.

"We demand from the Libyan government the immediate halt to its measures against Palestinians," Mr. Abdul Rahim told Reuters.

"Qadhafi's statements are a deliberate incitement against the Palestinian people."

PLO officials said last month Colonel Qadhafi suddenly decided to expel about

(Continued on page 7)

Qatar emir says normalisation of ties with Israel is premature

DOHA (Agencies) — Qatar's emir, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, said it was "premature" to consider setting up diplomatic ties with Israel, in an interview with Al Watan newspaper on Sunday.

"Talking about normalisation with Israel and establishing diplomatic ties with Tel Aviv is premature," Sheikh Hamad said in comments to mark the 24th anniversary of the Gulf state's independence from British rule.

Sheikh Hamad, who replaced his father Sheikh Khalifa in a bloodless palace coup on June 27, also slammed Bahrain for planning to build a tourist resort on the disputed islands of Hawar, one kilometre off Qatar.

Doha announced on July 29 that it would become the first Gulf Arab state to open an official representation in the Palestinian self-rule areas, but did not say whether it would do the same with Israel.

Israeli officials visited Qatar for the first time in June 1994 to attend a session of Middle East multilateral talks on weapons non-proliferation.

The emir said "the multi-



Sheikh Hamad Al Thani

lateral talks are not a substitute to the bilateral talks" between Israel and Syria, and Israel and Lebanon.

Doha said last year it would be ready to sell liquefied natural gas to Israel through a pipeline, if the two normalised ties and if the project was profitable.

Qatar, a small oil producer, has been involved in multi-billion dollar projects to tap its giant North field, one of the biggest gas reservoirs in the world with an

estimated 7.09 trillion cubic metres.

On the dispute with Bahrain, the emir said "Qatar's position is based upon the need to strictly abide by international law."

The Bahraini move "constitutes a violation of the principles within the frame of the solution to which the two parties have agreed and which does not permit the undertaking of such works," Sheikh Hamad told Al Watan.

The Qatari emir called on "the brothers in Bahrain" to cooperate with Doha and the International Court of Justice in the Hague to settle the sovereignty dispute.

Bahrain has refused to accept the jurisdiction of the court which decided in January that it had jurisdiction and is expected to produce a verdict by the end of next year.

Although Qatar has welcomed mediation by its larger neighbour Saudi Arabia, it refused to drop its case at the International Court of Justice.

Bahrain in April boycotted a meeting with officials from Qatar and the International

(Continued on page 7)

Jordan tightens border controls with Iraq

By Rana Sabbagh Reuter

AMMAN — Jordan has tightened border controls with Iraq to prevent possible sabotage or smuggling of U.N.-banned goods as part of a tougher line against President Saddam Hussein, officials and diplomats said on Sunday.

Travellers say the time needed for procedures at the desolate Al Karamah border post, 400 kilometres north-east of Amman and Bagh-

dad's only window on the world, has risen from one hour to at least three hours.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau visited Jordan twice last month seeking to tighten the economic noose around Iraq following top Iraqi defections to the Kingdom.

Jordan said it would not cut economic and trade links with Baghdad but pledged to tighten border controls to prevent any evasion of the sanctions imposed since Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, di-

plomats said.

Jordan has also feared reprisals by Baghdad since the Aug. 8 defections of Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel Hassan, mastermind of Iraq's military programmes, his brother and their wives — both daughters of President Saddam. King Hussein followed with a televised speech criticising the Iraqi leadership.

Amman has reinforced the army and police guarding the 180-kilometre long border with Iraq. Helicopters

routinely fly over the barren desert frontier.

"We have taken all necessary precautions for all possible retaliatory scenarios following the Jordanian-Iraqi developments," said a Jordanian official. "When you corner a cat it might become a tiger."

"We tightened border searches on passengers, trucks and vehicles to make sure no weapons or explosives come in and we are

(Continued on page 7)



HOMELESS: An Algerian woman and her child sit with a few belongings after a truck bomb destroyed their home in Mefta, southeast of Algiers, on Saturday. The death toll in the blast, initially put at four, went up to six on Sunday. At least 80 others were wounded in the explosion, blamed on militants fighting to oust the army-backed regime (AFP photo)

Iran, Syria back PKK bid to foil U.S.-backed truce, Iraqi Kurds say

SALAHADIN (APF) — Iran and Syria are backing Turkish Kurd separatists who have raided villages in northern Iraq and killed at least seven civilians, Iraqi Kurdish officials charged.

Guerrillas of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) have attacked at least 25 Iraqi Kurd villages on the Turkey-Iraq border since Aug. 24, officials from the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) told APF.

"The PKK is supported by Iran and Syria. We have confirmation that Iran allowed more than 300 PKK fighters to come through Iran into the area controlled by us," said Brucka Shaways, a member of the KDP leadership.

He charged the two countries were trying to stir up trouble between the KDP and its rival the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), who signed a U.S.-brokered truce in August to end a bitter power struggle which erupted in May 1994.

Neither Iran nor Syria want peace between the Kurds, he said. "They especially don't want a peace under the auspices of America because that would strengthen its rule in this area."

The accord signed in Ireland is seen as a first step towards a fragile peace in the region, controlled by the Kurds in defiance of Baghdad since 1991 with the backing of a U.S.-led coalition.

The inter-Kurd conflict, which has left more than 2,000 dead, has seen the region cut in half. All the main PKK bases are in the eastern region under PUK control.

"Without the agreement of PUK, the PKK fighters could not have crossed their territory," KDP spokesman Sami Abdul Rahman said.

It is the Iraqi Kurd villagers who are caught in the middle, and have seen PKK fighters whom they helped in the past turn on them. Some villagers have now set up nightly patrols.

"They came at midnight. They killed one man and took my brother as a hostage. He had always been friendly with them when they had come to the village before asking for food," said Besma Mussa, 35, from Tshama.

Apart from the seven civilians, 15 KDP fighters and 40 PKK militiamen have also been killed in the attacks and another 35 civilians injured, according to KDP figures.

But the PUK has yet to denounce the violence, and accused the KDP of seeking a military backing from Turkey fighting an 11-year battle to set up an independent Kurdish homeland in southeastern Anatolia.

Foreign ministers from Turkey, Syria and Iran are due to hold a meeting on Sept. 7.

"Our delegate in Ankara will ask Turkey to press Syria and Iran to stop their support for the PKK," Mr. Shaways said.

In its weekly paper Welat, the PKK said they were attacking the KDP because it refused to join the fight for "a greater Kurdistan." And it added the party had to be wiped out because it was backing Turkey's bid to crush PKK rebels.

Ankara has twice this year launched a huge military offensive against PKK camps in northern Iraq, which is used as a rear base by the guerrillas.

And although it criticised the incursions, the KDP has agreed to help Turkey patrol the border to halt PKK cross-border attacks launched from inside northern Iraq.

"In the spring we were persecuted by the Turks for helping the PKK. Now the PKK is making trouble, isn't it absurd?" asked a young mechanic from a border village.

Kuwaitis hope 'missing' prisoners are alive

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Umm Ahmad last saw her 35-year-old son alive five years ago when she found him in a Kuwaiti prison the day after Iraqi soldiers had dragged him away from his wife and children.

A robust woman of 60 with a round, brown face and wearing a black Muslim headscarf, she grimaced as she recalled the moment he re-emerged from a cell hours after his arrest in the family home.

"He was shrivelled up like a shrimp. He was doubled over in pain. Blood was all over him. Blood on his arms. Blood on his legs. Blood. Blood. Blood. Everywhere blood," she said. "He could not utter one word."

He was charged with serving in the resistance.

But like many of the relatives of the 605 men and women Kuwait says were taken to Iraq during the 1990-1991 occupation, Umm Ahmad, which is not her real name, holds onto shreds of hope the prisoners are still alive.

They have heard they are alive from Iraqis who fled to Jordan, from Arabs who visited Baghdad after the 1991 Gulf war to free Kuwait, or from some of the hundreds of Kuwaitis who escaped during the post-war Shiite Muslim revolt in southern Iraq.

"I still have hope," said Umm Ahmad, who did not want to be named for fear of damaging her son's case.

Last week Kuwait and Iraq held their first talks on their border to discuss the fate of the missing, although no details have emerged yet.

Officials at Kuwait's national committee for the missing and prisoners of war affairs here have expressed cautious optimism that Iraq may start accounting for more of the missing.

But the official Iraqi News Agency has denied reports from these officials that Baghdad had admitted to having transferred 116 prisoners to Iraq during the occupation.

The nephew and niece of

Faisal Abdul Hamid Al Sane, a Kuwaiti and former Baath Party member as well as a friend of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, said they believe their uncle, a brother and two cousins arrested with him are still alive.

Faisal was arrested after he refused an offer by Saddam's envoys to head a puppet government.

Arab League delegates sent to Baghdad after the conflict said they were told privately Sane was alive but learned little else because his case was directly in President Saddam's hands, his nephew Khalidoun Abdul Latif Al Sane said.

"If they wanted to get rid of him, they could have done it immediately," he said.

Khalidoun's sister Mariam said she learned the Iraqis had taken one of the prisoners to a doctor when he fell ill after a detainee in another cell died.

"They didn't want him to die," she said.

However, they were worried about their uncle's health as he had suffered a mild heart attack two weeks before the invasion.

Mariam said what is "burning me inside" is that time has stood still for her brother while the rest of the world has moved on.

After supporting the low-key diplomatic approach for years, Khalidoun said the only way to win the prisoners' release is for the United States and other Western powers to pressure Saddam.

He fears the U.N. Security Council's permanent members — the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China — might lift some of the sanctions imposed on Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait.

However, Washington is sticking to its demand that Iraq comply with all U.N. resolutions, including the release of the prisoners.

Umm Ahmad meanwhile placed some hope in signs the Iraqi leader might be losing his grip on power. "I hope Saddam falls and maybe they will be freed," she said.

Brotherhood accuses Cairo of victimisation

CAIRO (AFP) — The Muslim Brotherhood accused the Egyptian government on Sunday of trying to force it out of upcoming parliamentary elections by putting 50 of its members on trial before military courts.

"The government has resorted to military courts to deprive these prisoners of their right to run for office and to be elected," the banned Muslim fundamentalist group said in a statement received by AFP.

The government "has shown its insistence on barring the moderate Islamic movement from playing its role and conducting its duty," the Brotherhood said.

President Hosni Mubarak ordered 50 arrested Muslim Brothers on Thursday to be brought before a military court, in the first trial of the group since the Brotherhood leader, Sayed Qutb, was condemned to death in 1965.

The daily Al-Ahram said they would go on trial on charges of having "violated the law on organising political parties" and for trying to "recreate a banned party."

Chief among the 50 is Essam Eryan, assistant general secretary of the Brotherhood-controlled medical union and a former parliament member, who was arrested in January.

"We had hope that with coming elections, the government would take positive steps including measures to repeal emergency laws and the law against terrorism and to open up personal liberties," the Brotherhood said.

The group called on "all national parties and powers to use all legal means to stop this aggression."

The Brotherhood has announced plans to enter elections due this November unlike previous contests which the group has boycotted.

The Brotherhood was set up in 1929 but banned by former President Gamal Abdul Nasser in 1954. Many of its members were jailed in 1965 for trying to overthrow Abdul Nasser and then released by his successor, Anwar Sadat.

Since 1976 it has been tolerated because of its non-violent stand, although the ban was never officially lifted. The party wants an Islamic state based on Islamic law, but it officially rejects the use of arms.

But Mr. Mubarak accused the Muslim Brotherhood in 1994 of "being behind" attacks by Islamic militants in Egypt that have now left more than 860 people dead in three years.

Thirty Brotherhood members were arrested in January, and another 19 were netted in a police sweep in July. Another is on the run, while 23 of those arrested have been released from custody.

Mr. Mubarak has ordered military courts to try militants waging a battle since March 1992 to topple the government. There is no right of appeal.

Talibans retook town, Iranian agency reports

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Taliban movement fighters have captured a main town in western Afghanistan from government troops and forced them to withdraw, the official Iranian news agency IRNA reported Saturday.

The agency, quoting informed sources in border regions with Afghanistan, said the town of Farah had fallen on Friday after stepped up clashes between the student-led Taliban movement and forces loyal to President Burhanuddin Rabbani in southwestern Afghanistan.

Government forces were forced to retreat toward Shindand, some 100 kilometres to the north where they have a major air base.

The fall of Farah prompted many civilians to evacuate the town and seek shelter in safe areas, IRNA said, adding clashes were continuing Saturday around Farah and the region of Ghorama, about 100 kilometres to the east.

The defeat would be a major set back for Rabbani, whose troops joined the forces of Ismael Khan, the governor of Herat province, to defeat the militant Islamic Taliban in the southwestern provinces of Farah and Nimruz in mid-May.

The government made major advances in August in Kandahar, the Taliban stronghold near Pakistan, taking the areas of Delaram and Gereshk in Helmand province.

The Taliban, however, retook the regions this week, forcing government forces to retreat from Helmand.

Bid to free captives

A delegation of Russian and Tatarstan officials left for Afghanistan early on Sunday in a fresh attempt to win the release of seven Russian airmen held captive by an Afghan militia there since early August.

A Russian manager at Sharjah-based air company Transavia, which arranged the chartering of the Tatarstan-based Aerostan plane which was forced to land by the Islamic Taliban militia on Aug. 3, said Russian diplomat Zamil Kabulov left Sharjah for Kandahar early on Sunday.

Mr. Kabulov is a counsel at the Russian embassy in Pakistan.

He was accompanied by the top Muslim authority of Tatarstan, a senior Tatarstan government official and the president of the Aerostan company," he said.

Last week the Afghan militia demanded that a conference with United Nations participation be held in southern Afghanistan to discuss the fate of the seven Russians.

The militia also said they wanted Russian assurances that Moscow will not interfere in internal Afghan affairs.

The Russian manager said on Sunday it was not clear if a U.N. representative would join the delegation in Kandahar.

"Someone from the U.N. should be meeting with this delegation, but we are not sure of the details," he said.

United Nations special envoy Mahmoud Mestiri, who reports to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, is seeking peace between the Islamic Taliban militia and the Kabul government.

The Taliban, fighting the Kabul government, has demanded a list of what it says are 60,000 Afghans held in Russia since the occupation of Afghanistan by the former Soviet Union in the 1980s.

Moscow has denied it is holding any Afghans.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Likud woos Palestinian 'collaborators'

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Dozens of Palestinians who collaborated with Israel have joined the main right-wing opposition Likud party, the Israeli news agency Itim reported Sunday. Palestinians from the occupied territories have met with Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu and pledged their support, the agency said. They said they had been let down by the ruling Labour party which "abandoned them after using them."

Itim said Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's government "shamelessly dropped us, and we have no official status," the agency quoted them as saying. A Palestinian from Hebron on the West Bank said Palestinian police had tracked him down "right down to the streets of Tel Aviv."

Mr. Netanyahu "promised us that when he forms a government he will think of us," he told Itim. Around 700 "collaborators" and their families have been settled in Israel over the past years. Likud deputy David Mena said Sunday. They receive \$600 per family a month and some have been given Israeli nationality in reward for their help. However, most live in Israeli-Arab areas where they meet with hostility from other inhabitants. The press reported Sunday they had difficulty getting their children into local schools.

Sanaa wants Cairo to rein in Yemeni exiles

CAIRO (AFP) — Sanaa said on Sunday it expects Egypt to rein in Yemeni political exiles living on its soil after the two countries sign a security cooperation agreement. The security accord "gives the two countries equivalent powers, just as in all bilateral agreement," Yemeni Interior Minister Hussein Mohammad Arab told the Arab daily Al-Sharq Al-Awsat. "We expect cooperation from Cairo in the matter of Yemeni political exiles so that they don't work against their country," said Mr. Arab, who will sign the accord with his Egyptian counterpart. Cairo, for its part, has accused Sanaa of harbouring Egyptian militants seeking to overthrow the government. Neither side has specified when the signing will take place for the accord, which was announced during a visit by Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh to Egypt in July. The Yemeni minister told the London-based paper that the accord will detail the "types of criminals" the two countries will extradite to each other. It will also outline "the realms of security cooperation and other matters, such as the fight against terrorism and drugs," Mr. Arab said.

Couple sentenced to 230 lashes for adultery

DUBAI (AFP) — A married woman has been sentenced to 140 lashes for adultery and her bachelor boyfriend to 90 lashes for indulging in sex outside marriage, a newspaper here said Sunday. The pair were convicted by the Islamic criminal court of Sharjah, one of the seven emirates making up the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The Gulf News reported without giving the names or the nationalities of the couple. The woman's flogging is to be carried out in two sessions, said the newspaper, adding that a watchman at the farm where the couple used to meet was sentenced to three months in jail for "encouraging immoral acts." The same court has also sentenced to a one-year prison term, reduced to deportation, a painter who was found guilty of sexually abusing a maid in the kitchen of a house where he was working. In Dubai, another member of the UAE, an unmarried expatriate couple was arrested for having an illicit relationship after the 20-year-old woman gave birth to a child. She said her 24-year-old partner had promised to marry her. The boyfriend, however, denied he did so, and the investigation showed that he has entered the country illegally, the Gulf News reported.

Israel to upgrade 54 Turkish planes

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel has won a major contract to modernise 54 F-4 Phantom warplanes for the Turkish air force, sources in Israel Aircraft Industries said Sunday. They said that a framework agreement has been initiated, but that a final price tag was still being negotiated. However, an industry source said the deal would be worth about \$600 million and extend the life of the jet by 15-20 years. The source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said American and European companies also competed for the deal. The 1960s-vintage U.S.-manufactured aircraft will be fitted with advanced avionics systems including high-resolution radar. They will receive new armament, navigation and electronic warfare systems and a new main computer. Several other Israeli high-tech concerns will participate in the project as subcontractors. They include Elta, El-Op, Elbit, Elisra, Astronautics, Orbit and Rafael.

Son of ex-Yemeni president killed

FAIRFAX, Virginia (AP) — The son of a former president of Yemen killed when his car rolled over after a dispute with another motorist, authorities said. Ali Ahmad Ghashmi, 21, died Aug. 26 after the accident the previous day in which his brother, 19-year-old Abdul Rahman Ghashmi, also was injured. The younger brother was treated at a hospital and released. The victim, a student at George Washington University, was the son of the late Ahmad Ghashmi. The elder Ghashmi took power in the former Yemen Arab Republic in October 1977 after his predecessor was assassinated, and ruled until June 1978 when he also was assassinated. Ghashmi was succeeded by the current President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who led the northern Yemen Arab Republic and the socialist People's Democratic Republic of Yemen to unification in 1990. Witnesses said a blue car cut off the brothers' car as a two-lane road narrowed to one lane. The brothers tried unsuccessfully to pass the blue car. Both cars accelerated when the closed lane reopened, and the brothers' car left the road and rolled over, police spokesman Lucy Caldwell said. Investigators still were looking for the driver of the blue car, police said Friday.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:00 ... Animals of Farthing Wood

14:30 ... Hey Day

15:00 ... Survival

16:00 ... Families

17:00 ... Children's programme — Rahan

17:30 ... (Sunset) Daba

18:00 ... News in French

19:15 ... French Varieties

19:30 ... New Headlines

19:35 ... Doc — An End to Silence

20:00 ... McHale's Navy

20:30 ... The Bold and the Beautiful

21:15 ... Hearts of the West

22:00 ... News in English

22:25 ... The Ruth Rendell's Mysteries

23:25 ... Film: "Apocalypse Now"

PRAYER TIMES

04:47 ... Fair

06:07 ... Dhuhr

12:35 ... Dhuhr

16:10 ... 'Asr

19:02 ... Maghreb

20:22 ... 'Isaa

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church

Sweetish, Tel. 810740

Assembly of God Church, Tel. 637765

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terranova Church Tel. 622566

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630831, Tel. 626543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 625226

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675991

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Moderate summer weather conditions will continue to prevail with temperatures five degrees centigrade below average and winds westerly active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 15/26

Aqaba 22/33

Desert 14/31

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Jordan Valley 20/34

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 27, Aqaba 34 Humidity readings: Amman 55 per cent, Aqaba 44 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Faher Belcoshi 663412

Dr. Bassam Karadach 759200

Dr. Munther Al Khattabi 750078

Dr. Abdul Rahman Mustafa 744685

Fina pharmacy 641912

Ferdous pharmacy 778336

Al Asena pharmacy 637055

Nairookh pharmacy 636732

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yaacub pharmacy 644945

Samirah pharmacy 637661

Nairookh pharmacy 623672

Najih pharmacy 847632

IRSID:

Dr. Ali Al Omani 272032

Ajdous pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Tareq Hijawi 985445

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate 637041

Rescue 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 617101

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 643402

Traffic Police 894390

Public Security Department 630521

Head Complaints 626803

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 897467

Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 810230

Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 600100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53230

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 81381332

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6

Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 642412

Jabal Amman Maternity 642562

Malhas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 6641714

Shmeisani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/7

Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/8

Italian, Al-Muhajira 777101/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26

Army, Marka 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 622402/0

Amal Hospital 674155

The Arab Center for Heart and Special Surgery 865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital 09983560

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990

Erbil 02127355

Princess Basma Hospital 02127225

Grook Catholic Hospital (02)27225

The Al Nafes Hospital (02)27180

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:20 Sanaa (RJ)

09:00 Damascus (RJ)

09:30 Jeddah (RJ)

09:40 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

10:30 Beirut (RJ)

12:00 New Delhi (RJ)

17:15 Cairo (RJ)

17:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

19:00 Bangkok (RJ)

19:10 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

10:50 Khartoum (SD)

13:00 Doha (Q7)

13:40 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)

14:30 Kiy (RU)

18:45 Paris, Damascus (AF)

20:35 Cairo (MS)

21:00 Dubai (EK)

21:10 Beirut (ME)

22:50 London (BA)

01:25 Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:40 Beirut (RJ)

12:15 Milan (RJ)

12:20 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)

13:10 London (RJ)

13:25 Cairo (RJ)

13:30 Khartoum (SD)

13:30 Frankfurt (RJ)

22:15 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)

22:30 'Al Ain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:00 Istanbul (TK)

06:35 London (KJ)

07:30 Rome (AZ)

12:00 Beirut (ME)

14:00 Khartoum (SD)

14:30 Doha (Q7)

15:30 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)

15:35 Kiy (RU)

21:25 Cairo (MS)

22:00 Dubai (EK)

02:10 Damascus, London (BA)

02:30 Amsterdam (KL)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 every Monday

Arr. Damascus

Dep. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday

Arr. Amman 7:30 a.m. every Sunday

Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fits per kg.

Apples 600/400

Banana 680

Banana (Mukammal) 620

Cabbage 140/80

Carrot 330/200

Cauliflower 230/150

Cucumbers (large) 150/100

Cucumbers (small) 260/180

Eggplant 300/250

Figs 700/500

Garlic 750/600

Grapes 800/600

Lemon 400/300

Marrow (large) 250/150

Marrow (small) 420/320

Melkha 140/80

Okra 850/750

Onion (dry) 230/180

Orange 450/350

Peaches 900/750

Pepper (hot) 200/100

Pepper (sweet) 200/120

Pomegranate 350/250

Potato 230/150

Siling Beans 680/500

Sweet Melon 330/250

Tomato 130/80

Water Melon 300/120



Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday visits a Wadi Seer Development Project started in 1994 (photo by George Crystal)

Queen visits community development project in Bassa, Iraq Al-Amir

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday inspected the Wadi Seer Community Development Project established by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) at Al-Bassa village and at Iraq Al-Amir, a Royal Court statement said.

Queen Noor visited "Al-Noor" kindergarten, which she opened last March to serve the pre-school children of the village.

The kindergarten was established in 1994 with various sources of support including the Christian Children's Fund.

The Queen inspected the kindergarten's educational and recreational facilities, the statement said.

Queen Noor, the Chairperson of the National Task Force for Children, stated that some of the Task Force's primary objectives will be to assess and recommend improvements in early childhood educational projects in the Kingdom and to increase the number of qualified well-trained staff in children's centres.

Queen Noor visited the Iraq Al-Amir project, which was also initiated in 1994, with a grant from the government of Switzerland, to integrate comprehensive socio-economic progress in the five villages of the area with the development of sustainable tourism, according to the statement.

The two-year project will revive traditional Jordanian crafts, provide health ser-

vices, supply clean drinking water and sanitation facilities, ensure an equitable and efficient water distribution system for agriculture and generate long-term employment particularly for poor women, it said.

The statement said Queen Noor toured the textile weaving centre located in a renovated farmhouse, which was set up in February 1994 with the aid of looms and a weaving expert from the government of China.

The Canadian embassy provided funds for faster and wider Indian looms that can produce up to two-metre wide fabric and help satisfy local market demand.

The Queen also visited the 10 buildings undergoing renovations to suit the NHF plans to transform the complex into a handicrafts village that will preserve the cultural heritage of the region and would be linked to the archaeological site of Iraq Al-Amir thus enhancing its tourism appeal and increasing the benefits to the community.

Queen Noor inaugurated the NHF's food processing training course for women that aims to improve household nutrition, generate income as well as maximise the use of agricultural resources, the statement said.

Fifteen participants have enrolled in the five-day course, which is held in

cooperation with the University of Jordan and the Agricultural Marketing Institution.

She also visited one of the six medicinal herb schemes that enable women to turn their home gardens and unexploited lands into market gardens for aromatic and medicinal herbs.

The project, which currently yields 1,200 kilograms per annum in thyme and sage per year, educates women on the uses and benefits of these herbs and assists them in marketing their produce.

The NHF Medicinal Herbs Projects, which have reduced Jordan's imports of thyme and sage by 10 per cent, aim to satisfy the country's local demand.

The statement said that Queen Noor ended her visit by inspecting the irrigation canals maintenance project in Bassa and Iraq Al-Amir, which irrigates 1,650 dunums and benefits 250 families.

A joint project with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and the village council is under way to renovate the spring site and to construct a dam for collecting the spring's water.

President of the NHF's Executive Committee, Director of the NHF, members of the NHF Board of Trustees, the Director of the Department of Antiquities and other officials accompanied Queen Noor on the tour, the statement said.

UNRWA workers freeze strike pending talks with commissioner general

Agency postpones closure of sciences faculty

By Ghaila Ahul
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — UNRWA workers have decided to freeze the strike they were going to stage today pending the outcome of talks they plan to hold with UNRWA Commissioner General Ilter Turkmen who will arrive in Jordan Sept. 15, UNRWA labour committee sources said Sunday.

"If the results of the talks are positive, we will cancel the strike. If not, we will go on strike Sept. 18," Mohammad Muheisen, president of the Local Employees Union at UNRWA, which planned the strike, told the Jordan Times.

Meanwhile, Mr. Turkmen announced Sunday that the agency has postponed for one year its decision to stop the new intake of students at the Educational Sciences Faculty in Amman.

In a statement to the Jordan Times, Mr. Turkmen said the decision was taken after consultations with the

Jordanian government and the Palestinian National Authority with the understanding that they will try to "convince the donor countries to provide the necessary financial resources for an adequate financing of the faculty in the future."

UNRWA, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, had earlier decided to shut down the faculty after the graduation of its 522 present students, attributing the decision to budget constraints.

The decision outraged Palestinian refugees in Jordan, with the dean of the faculty, Izzeddin Manasrah, describing it as a "fauty political decision that harmed the interest of the Palestinian refugees."

In a letter to the commissioner general, representatives of the Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan had urged the agency to reconsider its decision to close down the faculty.

They said that the faculty has contributed in "filling a



Ilter Turkmen

gap that the refugees were in deep need of."

"The agency is determined to proceed with its policies to cut down its services to the refugees with the objective of eventually terminating those services...despite its claims that it does not intend to reduce them at this time," said the camps' representatives.

The reversal of the deci-

sion to close down the college was one of the demands that were to be pressed by UNRWA workers during the postponed strike.

Other demands include the provision of better health, education and social services as well as improved terms for end of service compensations and salary increases to cope with the rising cost of living.

UNRWA sources said that the agency's ability to meet those demands will depend on the availability of new funds.

They said the commissioner general had earlier promised to consider giving salary hikes in the beginning of next year after the meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations in January, which will discuss UNRWA's budget.

"If the donor countries commit new contributions to UNRWA, the agency will be able to give salary increases," informed sources said.

The sources brushed aside fears that UNRWA could be

closed down in the near future.

"UNRWA was established by a political decision and its closure will also require a political decision. This is a process that would take years because the problem of refugees has not been resolved yet," said the sources, who requested anonymity.

UNRWA employs about 20,000 workers of whom the majority are Palestinian refugees who benefit from the agency's health, education and social services.

Those services have been reduced in the past years due to what UNRWA insists are purely financial reasons.

UNRWA's largest operations are in Jordan, which hosts the highest number of Palestinian refugees.

UNRWA's employees in the agency's other areas of operation, Syria, Lebanon, Gaza and the West Bank, will join in the Sept. 18 strike if talks with Mr. Turkmen fail, the labour committee sources said.

Fire destroys Shobak farm

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Firefighters in Shobak Sunday battled for more than six hours to extinguish a blaze at dawn which destroyed a farm in Ma'an, Civil Defence Department (CDD) officials said.

Captain Farid Share', director of the CDD, told the Jordan Times Sunday that the fire had engulfed a 30-metre by 12-metre barn.

The blaze then spread throughout the entire farm, he added.

"Twenty sheep and 70 rabbits were killed, and 1,000 wooden boxes and 10 tonnes of fresh garlic and other agricultural equipment were destroyed," the CDD official said, adding that no one was injured.

Moreover, the fire burned documents, including, passports and work permits belonging to seven Egyptian workers at the farm.

Suspecting arson, Capt. Share' said, "We have not determined who started the fire or the materials used in the fire."

Four people killed in accidents

Four people including three children were killed in separate accidents, according to police and CDD reports.

In Karak, an eight-year-old child was killed and her sister was listed in critical condition Saturday after being run over by a pick-up truck.

The police report said Huda Suleiman was crossing a street in Al Zira' neigh-

bourhood with her six-year-old sister Mahmouda. The impact of the truck killed her instantly, it said.

Also on Saturday in Irbid in a similar accident, a three-year-old girl was killed and her brother was listed in good condition after being struck by a bus.

The toddler, Riham, was crossing a street with her brother Ahmad when the accident occurred.

A police official said that the drivers in both incidents are in police custody pending further investigation. He would not identify them.

In Al Mashara' area, CDD frogmen retrieved the body of a 13-year-old child who drowned in King Abdullah Canal.

Witnesses to the accident said Ziad Mohammad went swimming in the canal and minutes later he started calling for help.

Also on Saturday in Mafrag, a 20-year-old man was killed in his backyard after an old handgrenade he was tampering with exploded, ripping his body apart, official reports said.

A police official told the Jordan Times Sunday that the victim, who was not identified, was hammering a nail into the grenade, and it exploded.

The official said the man was mentally ill and was alone when the accident occurred.

He added that a hammer was found in his hand. "We have no idea how or where the man found the handgrenade," the official said, adding that police were investigating the incident.



Senate Speaker Ahmad Lawzi Sunday meets with visiting Tunisian Foreign Minister Al Habib Ben Yahyah to discuss parliamentary affairs (Petra photo)

Visiting Tunisian minister meets with Senate, House speakers

AMMAN (Petra) — Tunisian Minister of Foreign Affairs Al Habib Ben Yahya Sunday met with the speakers of Parliament and discussed parliamentary affairs and relations between the two countries.

At the meeting with Ahmad Lawzi, speaker of the Senate, Mr. Ben Yahya said Tunisia supports Jordan's endeavours to achieve a just and comprehensive peace as well as the Kingdom's moderate policies with regard to various

regional and international issues.

Referring to the question of Jerusalem, Mr. Ben Yahya said Tunisia calls for the return of the Arab sector of the city to Arab sovereignty, and Jerusalem represents the focal point in the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Lawzi outlined Jordan's position with regard to the peace process and Jordan's position vis-a-vis Jerusalem.

Speaker of the Lower House Sa'ad Hayel Srour

called for Jordanian-Tunisian cooperation in parliamentary affairs.

Mr. Srour also briefed the Tunisian minister on the ongoing preparations for the Afro-Arab parliamentary dialogue meeting scheduled for Jan. 1996 in Amman.

He said the event will help Arab and African parliamentarians find common denominators for future cooperation.

Present at the meetings was Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabarti.

Yemen, Jordan talks centre on goods exchange

AMMAN (Petra) — Prospects of diversifying and increasing exchanges of goods between Yemen and Jordan were at the heart of the talks which were held Sunday between visiting Yemeni Minister of Supply and Trade Mohammad Afandi and Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb.

A statement following the talks said the two sides reviewed the state of trade relations between the two countries and reaffirmed the need for increasing the volume of trade.

Head of the Yemeni Foreign Trade Corporation Yahya Ansi and Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Smadi later held formal talks on trade and the implementation of Jordanian-Yemeni agreements through an executive programme which they plan to sign.

Following the talks the Yemeni official said his delegation discussed trade and economic matters and the prospect of creating a joint company specialising in fishing.

He described the talks as positive and fruitful and



Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb Sunday meets with visiting Yemeni Minister of Supply and Trade Mohammad Afandi (Petra photo)

aimed at further promoting bilateral relations.

Dr. Smadi told Jordan Television after the meeting that the two sides reviewed the economic agreement signed by the two countries during the Jordanian-Yemeni Higher Committee meeting held in Sana'a in June as well as prospects of barter trade and banking arrangements for settling payments for imported goods as well as prospects of organising trade fairs to pro-

mote the sale of Jordanian and Yemeni goods in Sana'a and Amman.

Jordan sells Yemen cement and pharmaceutical products, and imports Yemeni fish and some agricultural products, according to Dr. Smadi.

Salem Lawzi, director general of the Agricultural Marketing Organisation, said the two sides discussed the prospect of Jordan selling Yemen table eggs and importing Yemeni potatoes.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

* "Le Petit Prince A Dit" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

* Sculpture by Rajwa Bint Ali at the Open Air Sculpture workshop.

* Ceramic shop at the Lower Garden.

PLAY

* Play (in Arabic) entitled "The Mule" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:30 p.m.

* Works by contemporary Arab artists at the Central Gallery.

* 3-D experiments in calligraphy by Usama Khalidi at Library.

DARAT AL FUNUN SUMMER '95 ACTIVITIES

Exhibitions

* Works of graphic art by several artists and students at the South Gallery.

* Photography of Jordan, 'Elements in Harmony' by Hala Hodeib at the Blue House.

* Display of painted stone and steel, 'Embargo Art' by Iraqi artist Nuha Al Radi at the Garden of the Blue House.

* 'Early Morning Scribbles' by Lebanese artist Amin Al Basha and Jordanian artist Rajwa Bint Ali and 'Late Night Scribbles' by Amin Al Basha and Jordanian artist Ali Bernamet.

EXHIBITIONS

* Work by Ali Al 'Ubaidi at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* Works by Mohammad Ali Shakir at Ab'ad Art Gallery.

* Paintings by Palestinian artist Samira Badran at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman.

* Exhibition of Egyptian products at the Amman International Auto Show, Airport Road.

* Exhibition demonstrating the development of cinema over the past century at the French Cultural Centre.

Mikhalkov, other Russian big names head political tickets

MOSCOW (AP) — The rich and famous stepped forward on behalf of Russia's leading political parties as the parliamentary campaign season heated up with more than 10 party congresses in Moscow.

Oscar-winning film director Nikita Mikhalkov lent his name to the electoral ticket of Our Home Is Russia, the party dominated by government officials.

Joining him at the head of the ticket are Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Lt. Gen. Lev Rokhlin, who won wide respect as a top commander in Chechnya.

Another celebrity, internationally known eye surgeon Svyatoslav Fyodorov, gave the keynote address to the Working People's Self-Rule Party and said he will run for

the State Duma or lower house of parliament.

Mr. Fyodorov, now a businessman and believed to be one of Russia's richest men, told the party new businesses should be exempt from paying taxes for five to 10 years, Russian media reported.

Another actor, Alexander Porokhovshchikov, was given a spot alongside Mr. Fyodorov at the top of the party ticket.

The dozens of parties that are jockeying for support in Dec. 17 elections are trying to line up the biggest names possible among the four that each can list on the ballot. Any party bigwig can be listed on the ticket without necessarily committing to serve in the duma.

Alexander Solzhenitsyn has taken on the role of political adviser to Yuri Skokov, the former aide to President Boris Yeltsin who heads a strong new party, the Interfax News Agency reported.

The Nobel Prize-winning author, who espouses nationalist views, has steered clear of an active role in politics since his return to Russia last year.

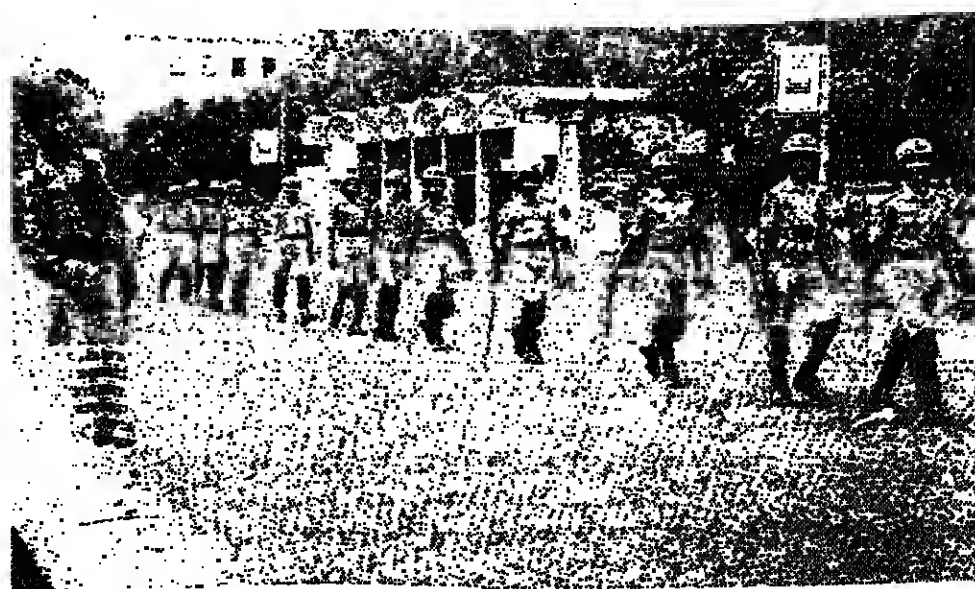
Skokov, who headed Mr. Yeltsin's powerful Security Council until he was fired in April 1993, now hopes to direct the Congress of Russian Communities to a leading role in the next parliament. He already has lured Russia's most popular general, Alexander Lebed, to share the top of the ticket

with him.

Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, who still dominates his ultranationalist Liberal Democratic Party, told his cheering congress that the KGB should be restored and its force brought to at least 1 million.

President Boris Yeltsin, not a member of any party but strongly backing pro-government candidates, sat next to Mr. Chernomyrdin and Mayor Yuri Luzhkov of Our Home Is Russia at ceremonies marking Moscow's 848th anniversary.

Parades, fireworks, an air show and other festivities are being held throughout the weekend to celebrate the founding of the city in 1147 by the legendary Prince of Muscovy, Yuri Dolgoruky.



Riot police march in line in Dhaka during a nationwide opposition-called general strike that paralysed Bangladesh (AFP photo)

500 hurt in clashes during Bangladesh strike

DHAKA (AP) — About 500 people were reported injured in clashes between rival political groups, as an anti-government strike paralysed the nation for the second day Sunday.

Normal business was suspended in about 60 cities Sunday, which is a working day in predominantly Muslim Bangladesh, in the opposition's campaign to force Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to resign and call elections supervised by a neutral caretaker government.

Protesters marched through Dhaka shouting anti-government slogans. More than 3,000 police and paramilitary troops fanned across the city, but no confrontations were immediately reported.

On Saturday, the first day of the declared 32-hour nationwide strike, gun battles erupted in eight towns outside Dhaka, and police used tear gas and rubber bullets in several places to break up the fighting.

Officials gave no casualty figures, but local newspapers reported that about 500 people were injured. Police said they arrested 200 people, including 132 street children who were hired by political parties to throw rocks at police vehicles or merchants who defied the strike.

Crude bombs exploded in front of the Dhaka residences of Law Minister Mirza Gohar Hossain and a ruling party legislator Redwan Ahmed, but no one was

injured, police said. Protesters stopped at least four trains, erecting log barricades on the tracks, railway officials said.

Three main opposition groups — the Awami League, the Jatiya Party and Jamaat-E-Islami — called the strike to demand Mrs. Zia's resignation. They have accused the government of corruption and incompetence.

Mrs. Zia has rejected the opposition demand for a caretaker government as unconstitutional. Elections are not due until next April. The standoff began 18 months ago when all the opposition lawmakers quit the 330-seat parliament. Since then, 142 legislators have vacated their seats.

'Mandela plans to marry Machel's widow'

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — President Nelson Mandela is planning to marry Graca Machel, widow of former Mozambican President Samora Machel, two South African newspapers reported Sunday.

Quoting Mr. Mandela's aides, the reports said the planned marriage is the reason the president on Aug. 21 filed for divorce from his estranged wife Winnie.

According to the Johannesburg Sunday Times, 77-year-old Mandela has discussed his plans with Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Arch. Tutu's spokesman confirmed the two men had met but said the archbishop "does not consider it his prerogative to discuss whether or not other people have marriage plans."

The Sunday Times said Mr. Mandela has been close to Graca Machel since he was released from prison in 1990, and has visited her at her home in Maputo, the Mozambican capital.

Mrs. Machel, who was widowed when her husband died in a plane crash in October 1986, has also visited him in South Africa, the newspaper said.

It described her as "very strong personality" with a reputation as a campaigner for women's and children's rights.

Mr. Mandela's spokesman, Parks Mankahlana, refused to comment on the report, saying "this is a private matter."

The Sunday Independent, meanwhile, said Mr. Mandela's lawyers have lodged papers in the Rand Supreme Court here claiming Winnie Mandela is "deliberately evading service of the summons upon her personally."

Court sheriffs have chased her across the country in the past two weeks, each time missing her — sometimes by mere minutes.

On Saturday, she left here to attend the World Conference on Women in Beijing with the papers still not having been served on her.

The newspaper said lawyers are now seeking an order from the court allowing them to serve the summons on Winnie Mandela's lawyers, on any adult person at her home in Soweto black township near here, or by affixing it to the gate of her property.

Mrs. Mandela's lawyers have denied she is deliberately avoiding the sheriffs, saying she has had a busy schedule in recent weeks. The divorce papers, which describe "Nelson Mandela as 'an adult man and head of state' and Winnie Mandela as 'an adult woman and parliamentarian,'" claim that the marriage has broken down irretrievably with no hope of reconciliation.

Press reports have claimed that Winnie Mandela intends contesting the divorce, with one report quoting an aide as saying: "She won't accept it because she knows it is a political attempt to undermine her. She says she can live with anyone she likes, but he can't have a divorce."

President Mandela has asked reporters not to question him on the divorce, saying it is "sensitive" and causing him much "trauma." The Mandelas, who were married in 1958, spent much of their life apart during his incarceration between 1962 and 1990.

Winnie Mandela, an MP and the president of the ruling African National Congress Women's League, was sacked from her post of deputy minister of arts, culture, science and technology by her husband in March after publicly criticising the government and defying the authority of the cabinet.

The often controversial Winnie Mandela separated from her husband in 1992 amid reports of a financial scandal and an affair, and her conviction for kidnapping a young boy who was later murdered by her bodyguard.

U.K. plane crashes at Canadian air show, 7 crewmen feared dead

TORONTO (AFP) — A British warplane carrying seven crew members crashed into Lake Ontario and sank during an air show Saturday as thousands of spectators watched in horror. Searchers turned up no survivors, raising fears that all seven were dead.

The Royal Air Force confirmed that two pilots, a flight engineer, a navigator, an air electronics officer and two electronics operators were aboard the plane when it crashed during the Canadian National Exhibition Air Show.

The identities of those aboard were withheld until their relatives had been notified.

The plane was a Royal Air Force Nimrod, which is used primarily for maritime surveillance. During the 1982 Falklands War between Britain and Argentina, some Nimrods were fitted with air-to-air missiles.

Canadian officials at the scene said the plane was based in Scotland. The plane crashed into the water about two kilometres offshore as thousands of spectators watched in horror.

Paul Loong, who witnessed the crash, told reporters the plane was flying low when the engines appeared to cut.

"It was flying away from shore. The plane's engines just stopped," he said. "It hit the water with a big splash." "There was a boom like a bomb dropped when it hit the water. It just plunged in," said Roy Runtan, another witness.

It was the eighth accident in the 46-year history of the air show which is held in conjunction with the Canadian National Exhibition.

1 dead, 6 hurt in S. Korea gas blast

SEOUL (AP) — A Sunday morning gas explosion partially destroyed a three-story mall in eastern South Korea, killing one person and injuring at least six others, Yonhap Television News reported.

The rescue work was continuing, and it was feared that additional casualties would be discovered in the wreckage, it said.

Television footage showed blocks of concrete and bent metal strewn around on the ground near the damaged

building. The windows on the third floor were shattered.

The explosion happened at 10 a.m. local time (0100 GMT) in Choonchun, 90 kilometres east of Seoul, it said. Leaking gas from a basement restaurant was believed to have caused the explosion when set afire by a stray spark.

Kim Young-Lim, a store owner on the second floor, told Yonhap he heard a loud boom, and the building seemed to shake underneath

her but did not collapse completely.

Yonhap had earlier reported that the explosion took place at a residential building.

South Korea has suffered a series of infrastructure-related disasters in recent years, including the collapse of a department store that killed more than 500 people, a subway gas explosion that killed 100, the collapse of a bridge and other mishaps.

President: China no threat to world peace

BEIJING (R) — President Jiang Zemin vowed Sunday that China would never threaten world peace and was committed to becoming an economic giant but he warned rival Taiwan not to declare independence.

"China has never been and will never be a threat to other countries," Mr. Jiang told a rally of 10,000 people in Beijing after an elaborate ceremony in Tiananmen Square to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II.

China needed peace to fulfil its ambitious goal over the next 15 years of developing its economy, now undergoing the fastest boom on earth, said Mr. Jiang, who is also the Chinese Communist Party chief.

"China needs a peaceful international environment for its socialist modernisation construction and it will stick to its independent foreign policy of peace," he said.

The so-called "China threat" rumoured by some people abroad was groundless and these people had ulterior motives, he said.

Diplomats said he was apparently referring to the United States, which Beijing

believes is evolving a policy of containment towards China for fear that rapid modernisation of the most populous nation on Earth could threaten its position.

Victory over Japan marked a turning point for China, Mr. Jiang said, and in the brief 50 years since the end of the 1937-45 invasion that killed or injured 35 million Chinese, China had taken giant strides toward setting up a socialist system.

Its Communist rulers, led by the late Chairman Mao Tse-tung, had "destroyed the reactionary rule of imperialism, feudalism and bureaucratic capitalism," he said.

"The great Chinese nation rose in the east," Jiang added.

"China...will step into the 21st century triumphantly with a new posture and advance towards modernisation with giant strides," he told the rally.

Beijing's Communist rulers were committed to the 16-year-old reform and open-door policy launched by paramount leader Deng Xiaoping, he said, dismissing fears China would return to the Stalinist-style centrally planned economy that Mr. Deng shattered.

China's five-year plan for 1996-2000, currently being drafted, would set a cross-century blueprint of long-term goals for the year 2010, Mr. Jiang said.

The president, named to head the Communist Party in June 1989 after his predecessor was sacked for allegedly supporting pro-democracy student demonstrations crushed by the army, issued a stern warning to Nationalist-ruled Taiwan.

"Any internal or external attempt to split China is doomed to failure," he said, insisting that Taiwan was an inseparable part of China.

Taiwan enraged Beijing when its President, Lee Teng-Hui, won U.S. Permission to make a landmark private visit last June. China saw this as a move by the island it regards as a rebel province to move towards independence.

Beijing's Communist rulers and the Nationalist authorities exiled to Taiwan in 1949 on their defeat in the Chinese Civil War both say they want reunification, but on very different terms. Beijing has refused to rule out using force to recover the offshore island.

Cuban film takes aim at bureaucracy

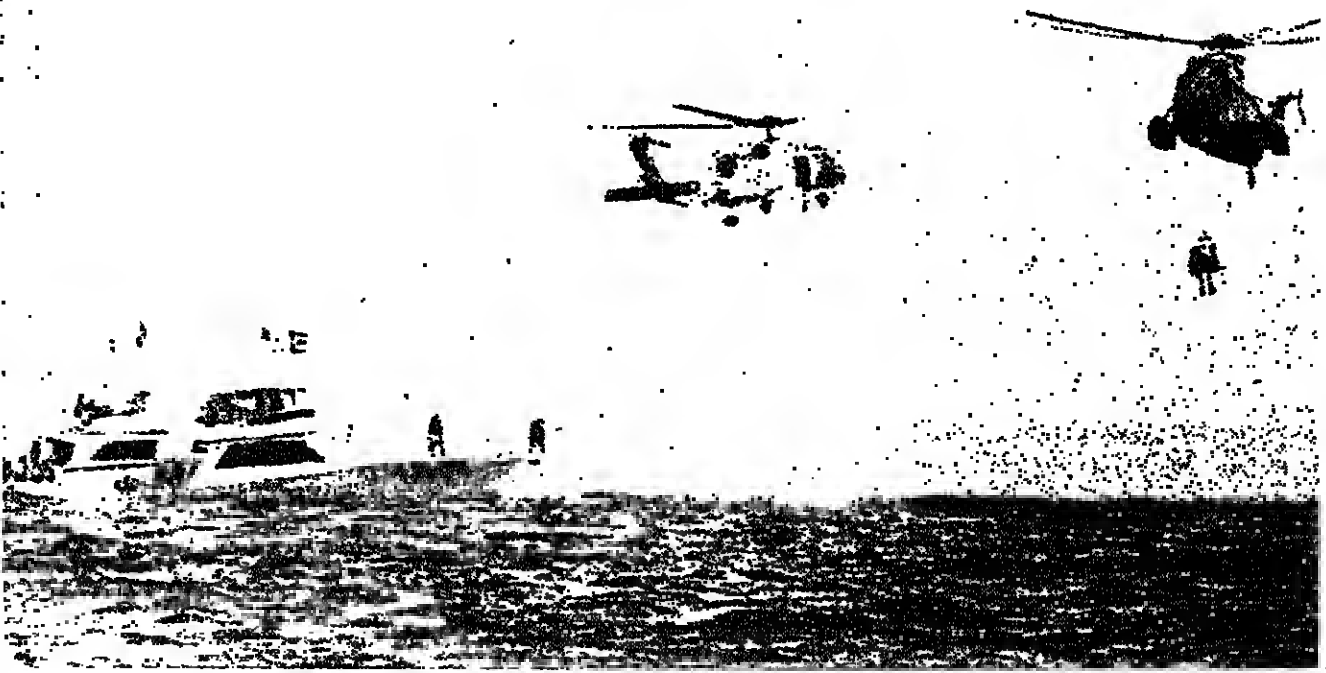
VENICE, Italy (AP) — Their country is on the brink of economic collapse and revolutionary ideals have faded. But in the Guantánamera, shown Saturday at the Venice Film Festival, Cubans aren't easily discouraged. Creativity and the ability to get by make up for washed out ideology in the film, up for competition at the festival's 52nd edition. Directed by Cubans Tomas Gutierrez Alea and Juan Carlos Tabio, the movie takes a bittersweet look at life under the Castro regime. A career-minded, petty bureaucrat trying to reform funeral practices chases after a coffin in an adventurous journey through the poverty and black market economy of Cuban small towns. "We didn't invent any of the incredible things that happen in the film. They are all part of our daily lives," Gutierrez Alea said. Also shown in competition Saturday was Tullio Marco Giordana's The Pasolini Case. The movie reconstructs the gruesome murder of Italian neorealist writer-director Pier-paolo Pasolini, and has prompted prosecutors to reopen the case. Ennio Morricone's music accompanies the documentary drama alternating archive material with reconstructions of Pasolini's murder Nov. 2, 1975 by a young hustler he had taken to a beach near Rome. The youth, Nicola Persoli, was convicted of the murder. But the film casts doubt on the prosecution theory that sadomasochism was involved and that Persoli acted alone. The film failed to hit the mark for most critics, who nevertheless praised the attention given to Pasolini, whose works often have been neglected. An enthusiastic Tom Hanks met with reporters Saturday to promote Apollo 13, shown in the Venetian nights section. "I'm the luckiest man in the world. I've been paid to make my childhood dream come true," he said of his role as astronaut Jim Lovell.

Kennedy Jr. denies engagement reports

NEW YORK (R) — John F. Kennedy Jr., the man dubbed America's most eligible bachelor has denied reports he asked his current live-in girlfriend to marry him. "Once again, John Kennedy seems to be bearing the brunt of a slow news day. The stories circulating regarding an engagement are untrue. He is not engaged," said a statement issued to newspapers Friday by his personal assistant. Friday's front page article in the New York Post reported that the 34-year-old Kennedy had proposed to Caroline Bessette, his live-in girlfriend and Calvin Klein public relations executive. "While it is not our habit to comment on John's personal life, this story seems to have taken on a life of its own and we feel it necessary to respond," the statement said. The Post said Kennedy made the proposal to calm Bessette down after she allegedly read a National Enquirer story saying he had a sizzling romance with actress Sharon Stone. The tabloid said Bessette became jealous and flew into a rage and had threatened to move out of the Manhattan apartment she shared with Kennedy, who has been linked to a string of beautiful women, including Daryl Hannah, Sarah Jessica Parker and Christina Haas.

Emma Thompson commends Hugh Grant for "breaking out"

LONDON (AP) — Memo from Emma Thompson to Hugh Grant: More of the same old boy. The Oscar-winning British actress said Grant's notorious liaison with a sunset Boulevard prostitute was "wonderful, absolutely wonderful" in an interview published Sunday. "I don't think it was a mistake at all," she told the Independent on Sunday newspaper. "I thought, thank God, you know, you've broken out." Grant, the star of Four Weddings And A Funeral, pleaded no contest to lewd conduct in July after Los Angeles police arrested him in his car with a prostitute. Thompson, who won the Best Actress Award for her role as the dithering spinster who wins Anthony Hopkins' heart in the 1992 Edwardian drama Howard's End, said her friend Grant would now be seen as more complex.



U.S. Coast Guard helicopters rescue people from the waters of the Florida Straits after a boat of the protest flotilla sailing for Cuba sank in stormy weather. Forty-seven people were rescued and one person died from heart attack (AFP photo)

Cuban exile flotilla comes to deadly end at sea

MIAMI (R) — Wind-whipped seas sank one small boat, killing a Cuban exile, and forced two dozen other vessels in a protest flotilla to turn back Saturday from plans to sail to the edge of Cuba's territorial waters.

But the flotilla to protest Cuban leader Fidel Castro's regime will try again, possibly in October, its leader said.

Alina Fernandez Revuelta, the adult daughter of Mr. Castro who defected two years ago, was among the participants who returned safely to shore aboard one of the other 24 boats.

"I think it's an important first start," she told reporters in Key West. "We are united and will always be united. There are not two Cubas."

to toss sealed bottles containing copies of the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights into the sea, in hopes some would wash ashore in Cuba and galvanise grassroots protests on the Communist-ruled island.

But rough, churning seas capsized a 42-foot (14-metre) shrimp, which was carrying 47 Cuban exiles. Although all were rescued by the U.S. Coast Guard or other flotilla boats, one of the rescued men died of an apparent heart attack, officials said.

Ramon Saul Sanchez, the flotilla's organizer, described the dead man as "another of Castro's victims of repression."

Mr. Sanchez said the group of protesters would mount the flotilla again, possibly on Oct. 22 when Mr. Castro is expected to address the United Nations.

"When you struggle against a regime like Castro's, you are putting lives in

danger," he told reporters. "We don't have any other choice but to continue these risks because Cuba must be free."

Passengers said the hijack pumps stopped working in the midst of seven-foot (2.1 metre) seas, and the boat sank in less than 20 minutes. Survivors plucked from the heaving seas in baskets lowered by Coast Guard helicopters. Others clung to life jackets, buoyant coolers and other bits of floating materials.

The shrimp, the Sun-down Two, was about 16 kilometres off Key West when the accident happened. The other boats immediately turned back and returned safely to Key West.

The event was preceded by admonitions to flotilla organisers from the United States and Cuban governments because of a confrontation that took place during the previous protest six weeks ago.

On July 13, the flotilla's lead vessel, the Democracia, was squeezed between two Cuban gunboats as it tried to enter Cuba's territorial waters.

The incident left three people hurt, including one whose injuries led to the amputation of one of his toes.

Cuban Navy vessels patrolled the seas off Havana Saturday to stop the flotilla from penetrating Cuba's territorial waters.

In Havana, state-run Prensa Latina news agency said that the abandoned seaborne protest was a "propaganda show that has ended in 'resounding failure.'"

The Cuban government warned the exiles in recent weeks that it would employ all necessary measures, including shooting down or sinking unauthorised planes or vessels, to defend Cuba's sovereignty.

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

TRAFFIC CONDITIONS in the country have been particularly disturbing this summer due to the greater number of cars brought into the Kingdom by expatriates and Arab tourists. The terrible driving habits that we had to get used to experiencing under less congestion are obviously compounded by the dramatic increase in the number of vehicles on the roads. But the guests will leave soon, leaving us a bit of space to reorganise in preparation for next year.

What could we do in the next several months to make sure that by next summer traffic conditions will be better and safer for all drivers and their families? We could, for instance, begin to show more respect for lanes especially those designated for turning right or left or backwards. Out of utter disrespect for the law and fellow drivers, many still sneak into any lane that appears less congested including the ones directed solely for left or right turns and end up blocking the free flow of traffic. It is bad enough that our drivers zigzag between lanes as if they are alone on the road and without the slightest respect for safety and fellow drivers. Jordanians behind wheels often act as if an instant decision on their part to change lanes gives them also an absolute right to cross all lines drawn to help discipline and safety. Indecision by some, if not most, drivers adds so much to the agony of driving that we probably have to call for the psychoanalysts among us to explain the phenomenon.

To begin dealing with this particular problem, we have to impress on the authorities first the need for clear and visible demarcation of lanes with a special paint that can be seen not only for a few weeks but for a long time, as is indeed the case in other countries. What we have now in temporary lanes whose lines fade as fast as the paint dries up. Have our municipalities and the Ministry of Public Works never heard of the special paint for roads that is used very effectively elsewhere in the world? Once we have in place lanes that are well-defined we need from our traffic patrols to monitor movement on them so that we may instil in our public a deeper awareness of their existence and usefulness. When drivers use left or U-turn lanes, which are designated for left and backward turns only, to go either straight or right, the traffic police — and dare we say the drivers themselves also — should intervene to make the violators obey the rules. When we realise that sailing into a left lane means turning left and not forward, then very soon we will all begin to understand the process of proper selection of lanes. This makes some police presence on major intersections and at traffic lights, especially when they are newly constructed or installed absolutely necessary. We believe that even a temporary surveillance by the police can do the trick. Imposing fines will not be necessary right away, since a campaign of awareness can open eyes of many drivers at the initial stages.

We have to start anew in the effort to clear a major headache for the state and all its citizens. But we have to start by tackling one problem at a time. It will take a bit of time, anyway, before all our traffic problems can be solved.

A WRITER in Al Ra'i Sunday attacked an American-Israeli attempt to create a Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli axis starting with joint regional projects. Tareq Masarweh said that through this axis, the U.S.-Israeli alliance hopes to prevent the creation of a Palestinian state. Through this attempt, the U.S.-Israeli alliance hopes to end the Arab-Israeli conflict in a manner most favourable to world Zionism, something which the Jordanian people strongly oppose. He said that the Jordanians insist on remaining affiliated with the Arab Nation and continue to seek full coordination and cooperation with the Palestinians, whom they regard as the real partners in development. The writer also said that it is more reasonable for Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt to create joint tourism projects on the shores of the Red Sea than relying on Israel for that matter. Indeed, Jordanians feel it is natural for them to have a close relationship with the Palestinians in handling issues pertaining to water supplies. He said that with water related issues, said the writer, who added that Jordanians should not succumb to the U.S.-Israeli pressures and ought to opt for the pan-Arab option though such option seems difficult at the present.

A WRITER in *Al-Dustour* Sunday expressed the view that the government was working under pressure to prepare the ground for the Middle East and North Africa economic summit (MENA) and is trying to rush new laws through Parliament concerning the income tax and the sales tax. Taher Adwan said that in its current drive, the government is not allowing for ample time for the full discussion of these draft laws or amendments to them and not recruiting qualified economists to handle this process. It is important to ensure the success of the MENA conference in October but it is also important for Jordan to look around and study the situation in the neighbouring Arab countries, he cautioned.

By Dr. Waleed Sa'adi

IT WAS something of a shock to hear Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin say in reference to the recent disclosures about war crimes committed by Israeli military personnel against Egyptian prisoners of war (POWs) that "there is no purpose in raising events of the past, not on our side and not on theirs." Of all countries, Israel should be the last to even think in these terms with regard to war crimes and crimes against humanity. Having prided itself as being utterly opposed to let bygones be bygones when it comes to the holocaust against the Jews and having established a clear and unequivocal record as the unwavering "hunter" and "apprehender" of all people who committed genocide against Jews, it seems incomprehensible to now state that there is no purpose in digging past graves.

I trust my case not on information or revelations provided by neo-Israeli sources on the extent of the Israeli war crimes against Egyptian prisoners of war but rather on direct Israeli sources that surfaced when Israel's more than 20 years old archives were opened two years ago to researchers. The fact that the compelling evidence about war crimes committed against Egyptian soldiers during the 1948-49 and 1967 wars was found in the Israeli archives from Arab sources is equally damning to the Arab side, which has shown no sensitivity in the least to war crimes committed against their own people and soldiers.

Cairo should have been the one that investigated the obvious killing in cold blood of Egyptian soldiers. This lack of concern on the Arab side for what happened to their people and military personnel can be attributed to several factors among which the absence of deep-rooted democracy and lack of a tradition of accountability even on the domestic level. But this is another story that calls for a special perusal and soul-searching in the Arab Nation not only on the official level but also on the non-official level as

well.

Since Israel brags about being different than other nations and alleges holding high moral ground on the battlefield with the Arab armies, its records during its wars with the Arab armies as well as during the 1947-48 armed conflict in Palestine suggest that the Jewish state is not quite faithful to its principles when it comes to non-Jews. I am thinking here of the massacre of Palestinians in Dier Yasio and elsewhere at the hands of Jewish terrorist factions that were never accounted for by the state of Israel. What we need most to injury is the fact that some of the heads of some of these gangs became Israeli leaders in the future. The late Menachem Begin, who became a prime minister, is a classic example of this insensitivity to war crimes when perpetrated against non-Jews. Former defence minister Ariel Sharon, now an important figure in the Likud Party, was implicated by Israeli sources in the massacres of Palestinians in the refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila during the encirclement of the Lebanese capital in the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

Many historians have since concluded that the stage for non-accountability was actually set in 1948, when an Israeli soldier was punished for war crimes. Beny Morris, a noted historian, attributed this callous attitude to the late Israeli prime minister David Ben-Gurion who felt that investigations of war crimes would compromise and weaken the fighting spirit of the Israeli army. This assessment was shared by the Israeli military hierarchy. The late Israeli journalist Amichai Noy said that he knew of only "one" case of four soldiers who went to prison for war crimes. Mr. Avner confirmed the findings of Mr. Pail when he reported that Israeli military censured any attempt to report killings of PoWs. Michael Bar-Zohar, a former legislator who served as spokesman for the late defence minister Moshe Dayan, backed up these assessments when

he confirmed that prisoner killings were treated forgivingly by all of Israel's leaders.

So when retired Israeli General Arye Biro came forward recently and confessed that he killed 49 Egyptian soldiers in cold blood in the 1956 war, the reputation of Israel was further shattered and tarnished. After Gen. Biro spilled the beans, other Israelis surfaced to confirm other atrocities. One asserted that 1,000 Egyptian soldiers were shot dead in cold blood after they surrendered in 1967.

Now it seems that the ball is in the court of the Israeli attorney general who promised to check whether there are legal grounds to bring charges against several Israelis for committing war crimes in the past. The problem, the attorney general, now maintains, is the lack of legislation in Israel on war crimes. Existing criminal law, he says, does not allow for the trial of people on murder charges 20 years after the murders were committed.

I find it unbelievable that Israel does not have laws against war crimes per se. Of all countries, Israel should have been the first to have such laws since Jews were the prime victims of war crimes not only during World War II but also in eras prior to that time. If the Israeli judicial authorities feel that their hands are tied up because of insufficient legislations, I venture to remind them that Israel is a party to several international conventions against genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, which are applicable in Israel even when there are no specific laws on them in place. It is also the rule of thumb under these legally binding international norms that the statute of limitation does not apply. So no matter how old are these war crimes, they can still be investigated and prosecution can be put into motion against all those suspected of committing them. Otherwise, Israel would lose not only face but also moral and legal grounds for going after Nazi war criminals.

By Naseer H. Aruri

PALESTINIAN SOCIETY faces momentous challenges at the political, diplomatic, economic, social and organisational levels. Politically, the pursuit of a negotiated settlement is no longer governed by a framework based on international legality (national rights, right of return and accordance with U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338). Today's effective framework is premised on the notion of security, reinterpreted to mean the security of Israeli citizens everywhere, including those in the settlements in the occupied territories, which exist in defiance of international law.

called final status negotiations less than two years from now.

Mr. Arafat's concurrence in the linkage between redeployment and by-pass roads, as well as his acquiescence to Israeli political and infrastructural measures in and around Jerusalem, not only confirms his conversion Israel's overriding principle of security, but also his indifference to the bantustans solution. Worse yet, the final settlement portends several isolated bantustans, not a single one that he could refer to as a future Palestinian state, despite Israel's control of external security and overall responsibility for internal order, no matter what happens.

of charters and covenants deemed unhelpful to a pragmatic peace? How could six million Palestinians truly endorse Arafat's renunciation of the Covenant while Israel refuses to renounce its own discriminatory covenants and to declare its intention to stop land confiscation even as peace talks take place in various Israeli resorts? Such renunciation in exchange for joint control of but 3 per cent of the West Bank — the proposed and current negotiations — seems to reflect the weight Mr. Arafat gives the 'principles of national rights, Palestinian national uni-

The new Palestinian State Security Court and its "Star Chamber" proceedings, the midnight arrests and the extrajudicial executions, the suspension of civil liberties and curtailment of a free press are Arafat's doings, but he is acting in accordance with Israeli U.S. requirements on "law and order" — read "repression." The PNA, moreover, is an essential component of Israel's military

The Palestine authority as component of Israel's strategy

The Palestinians are also faced with similarly unprecedented challenges at the political and organisational level. The Oslo Accords and the Israeli interpretation of the Declaration of Principles have all but obliterated the national address and anchor of six million Palestinians, the symbol of their inalienable rights. The PLO, as national aggregate and as the embodiment of Palestinian nationalism, has been eclipsed and effectively pre-empted by the Palestine National Authority (PNA). Not only does the substitution of the PNA for the PLO divest the Palestinian cause of its national characteristics, but it also facilitates privatising the occupation. The authority is simply the highest guide and the most effective junior partner for the operation of a reconfigured occupation.

The new enterprise is seen by Israel as cost effective as it prepares for the 21st century. The moral and material cost of the occupation is being passed on to Mr. Arafat and international donors. Israel's legal and security institutions are freed from policing and rationalising the occupation. Its diplomatic missions and U.S. patron are released from the task of defending the indefensible Israel's military budget will permit

member civilian bureaucracy. Mr. Arafat has been able to transform the political structure of the West Bank and Gaza during the past year to suit his agenda and that of his patrons. The PNA has thus become the largest employer in a society plagued by deliberate economic strangulation and impoverished by an occupation policy of de-development. The PNA acts effectively as a conduit for international donations, distributing jobs to a community which is being forced to live with a 65 per cent unemployment rate in Gaza. And yet the cost of Israel's frequent closures and the sealing-off of the West Bank and Gaza has far exceeded the entire sum of interna-

ditional donations, which create these jobs, one of whose defining characteristics is political loyalty. The cost for the Palestinians of such cronyism and non-productive employment in moral, social and political terms is simply catastrophic.

The march of the Palestinians towards civil society is now being shunted towards the traditional approach of governance and conflict resolution, which rests on the role of the clan in accordance with tribal rules. The decline of resistance has retarded the real task of democratic nation-building, previously expressed in the roles of the popular committees and the numerous NGOs.

As a huge employment agency, the PNA is trying to build support and forge consensus through political patronage. As the sole recipient of international donations within the Oslo framework, it has succeeded in bankrupting and stifling a vigorous NGO movement which had served as the main pillar of a civil society in formation. As the agent of Israel and

The movement does not seek to gain converts to its central objective of Palestinian statehood; most Palestinians are already committed. The strategy calls for creating tangible conditions, through political action, in which the interests of organised groups would fuel the actual advance towards statehood. This would not be accomplished by the various organisations which work together but are subject to command decisions emanating from abroad, and bound by the ideological constraints of a bygone era. The old political formula is now seen as elitist, dogmatic and even tribal in the relationship between the political organisations and the masses. The proposed alternative is to mobilise a multiplicity of unions, NGOs, women's groups, intellectuals, social, economic and cultural organisations in towns, villages and refugee camps in a broad structure to fill the vacuum and break the monopolies imposed by Arafat's establishment and the religious opposition.

The rest of the programme is devoted to the realisation of the Palestinian consensus on such things as

The emergence of a third force

A new political terrain in the West Bank and Gaza has emerged from the Oslo process. It is seemingly bipolar, the PNA versus the Islamists, but in fact it is tripolar. The majority of the undifferentiated public tends to be secular, democratic and opposed to the diminution of the Palestinian cause under Israeli pressure and PNA compliance. Their attempts to create a forum from which to articulate their interests and translate their views into public policy have been impaired by organisational and ideological constraints, not to mention the omnipresence of two authorities intolerant of any serious opposition. Yet there is a movement in formation which comprises independent politicians, members of the People's party, the PFLP and DFLP, or of civil societies which make portions of it look like a bill of rights and much is written about the need to end corruption in the PNA, to restrain Arafat's security apparatus, which include as many as nine intelligence agencies, to halt land alienation and to embark on rational economic development in order to terminate the situation dependency.

As a diplomatic train continues to grind over the international consensus on Palestine, there is an urgent necessity for a democratic secular movement to emerge in Occupied Palestine and in the diaspora. Such a movement must compel a mass following if the Palestinians are to ensure that the political terrain is not conceded to Israel, to Arafat or to the Islamists.

The writer is professor of political science at Southern Massachusetts University. The above article is reprinted from Middle East

Featu

Palestina Jerusalem

occupied Jerusalem (Times) — Palestinian gunmen) — Palestinian gunmen then conference of the city on Saturday and called for a boycott of celebrations planned by the city council. The city council member stated to begin a week of these celebrations. In an attempt to maintain Jewish and Islamic identity and glorify its occupation, the Islamic Movement, the Palestinian official in Jerusalem told about 200 people attending the "Jerusalem Conference" that Arab East Jerusalem was not going to participate in the 15-month celebrations of Jerusalem's "birthday" that start today. A dispute over the basis of the 1,500 anniversary of David's capture of the city and establishment of Jewish rule is the latest in a series of incidents rocking the city. Israeli-ordered Palestinian officers cut ties with the Palestinian Organization for the Liberation of Jerusalem (PLO) in June. Palestinians complained they held Saturday's conference at the City Hall House, Jerusalem's unofficial headquarters in Jerusalem, headed by Israeli mayor, Ehud Barak, and other members of the night-wing Likud Party, demanded that Israeli border police set up checkpoints outside the city during the two-day conference. Palestinians want East Jerusalem as the capital of an independent state. Israel has stated the eastern section of the city in the 1967 war, and later. But it says it will not relinquish "sovereignty" over any part of Jerusalem. The extremists who want to turn the city into a Jewish state cannot do so because

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Palestinians boycott Jerusalem 'party'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinians held their own conference on Jerusalem Saturday and called for a boycott of celebrations planned by the city's Jewish mayor slated to begin next week.

"These celebrations do not only disclaim Jerusalem's Arab and Islamic identity, but glorify its occupation," said Faisal Hussein, the top Palestinian official in Jerusalem.

He told about 200 people attending the "Jerusalem Conference" that Arab East Jerusalem was not going to participate in the 15-month celebrations of Jerusalem's 3,000 "birthday" that starts Monday.

The dispute over the bash to mark the 3,000 anniversary of King David's capture of Jerusalem and establishment of Jewish rule is the latest surrounding the city. Earlier this week, Israel ordered three Palestinian offices cut their ties with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) or close.

The Palestinians complied. But they held Saturday's conference at the Orient House, the PLO's unofficial headquarters in Jerusalem, which the Israeli mayor, Ehud Olmert, and other members of his right-wing Likud Party have demanded shut.

Israeli border police set up four checkpoints outside the Orient House during the two-hour conference.

Palestinians want East Jerusalem as the capital of an independent state. Israel, who seized the eastern sector of the city in the 1967 Mideast war, and later "annexed" it, says it will never relinquish "sovereignty" over any part of Jerusalem.

"The extremists who want to turn the city into a Jewish town cannot do so because

they have to demolish every church, every house and every wall," Roman Orthodox Bishop Lutfi Laham told the conference.

But Palestinian residents were not satisfied with speeches and demanded the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) send them more support.

"Before you start talking about Judaisation, why aren't you doing anything to stop the collapse of our institutions, our schools and our medical institutions in the city," shouted school accountant Hadil Al Budairi.

The participants applauded in approval.

Mr. Hussein said Palestinians could only count on themselves for support.

"We should have a clear position against these celebrations which deny completely the true Arab reality of the Holy City. The Europeans have boycotted it and so should we," he said, referring to a decision by the European Union not to participate in the 15-month-long series of events.

Palestinian leaders representing different political factions and religious groups called on Arab countries to aid the Palestinian institutions and help protect them against harassment by Jewish settlers who have been campaigning for their closure.

Some 200 Palestinian schoolgirls demonstrated in front of Orient House, Mr. Hussein's office, against the settlers who have set up a protest tent. Palestinian demonstrators tried to burn the tent but were dispersed by police.

"Palestinians say the presence of the settlers poses a danger to the students of two nearby schools whose classes began on Sunday after summer holidays.



BLAST IN PARIS: French firemen and policemen work in the open air market where a pressure cooker, reportedly packed with explosives and a detonating device, went off on Sunday, injuring at least four people. It was the third blast in the French capital in six weeks (see page one) (AFP photo)

Princess Basma coordinates Arab stand at Beijing meeting

BEIJING (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma on Sunday chaired a meeting at the Arab League office here of heads of the Arab delegations taking part in the Fourth World Conference on Women (WCW).

Addressing the delegation heads, Princess Basma stressed the importance of coordinating inter-Arab meeting related to the WCW, which brings together delegations from 183 countries.

Princess Basma said the meeting provides a good opportunity for reviewing and discussing international work plans and Arab positions towards the various issues contained in the conference's plan of action.

Princess Basma stressed the need for a unified Arab position towards the various issues and for ensuring a mechanism for coordination among the Arab delegations during the conference.

To ensure closer coordination, the heads of the delegations decided to form a special committee chaired by Princess Basma and Jordan and grouping members from five Arab countries.

The committee will meet

once in two days during the conference to discuss controversial issues and come up with a unified Arab stand towards them.

They also agreed to present the Arab work plan which was adopted at the preparatory Arab meeting held in Amman in November under Princess Basma's chairmanship and endorsed by Arab ministers of social development.

They also discussed Arab positions within the Group of 77 and the points of difference between this group and

the European, American and Japanese groups. There is disagreement with the Group of 77 whether global economic trends and economic adjustment programmes in the developing world increase rather than decrease differences and disparities between men and women.

While the Group of 77 sees that such trends foster and enhance disparities between men and women, the other groups see that the issue is exaggerated, saying that what is needed is further support for women-oriented programmes.

Work under way on Tapline

(Continued from page 1)

Jordan's oil suppliers, His Majesty King Hussein, in a speech to the nation on Aug. 23, said Jordan had no intention to close its borders with Iraq or cut its trade and economic links with its eastern neighbour. The King also said that Jordan would seek alternate sources of oil but only as a contingency measure.

Suggestions that the maintenance work on the Tapline came after Mr. Darwazah, the energy minister, reportedly cancelled or postponed a scheduled visit to Iraq.

Iraq is benefiting from the daily flow of oil to Jordan, since it receives part of the cost of the shipments in Jordanian food and medicine exports. Part of the rest is adjusted against Iraqi debts to Jordan.

Jordan's refusal to join the anti-Iraq coalition in the 1990-91 Gulf crisis had strained its ties with the Gulf states. However, Jordan has managed to mend relations with most of them and its reconciliation efforts got a boost with its decision to shelter the Iraqi defectors.

Saudi King Fahd and King Hussein are expected to meet soon.

The U.S., which is leading the anti-Iraq campaign in the West, is seeking to isolate Iraq further by severing Jordan's trade and economic links with Iraq. U.S. Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs Robert Pelletreau visited Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in mid-August, in an obvious effort to replace Iraq with the Gulf states as

Qatar: Normalisation premature

(Continued from page 1)

Court of Justice at the Hague to start settling the dispute on the island which are believed to be rich in gas.

The dispute erupted in 1939 after Britain, former colonial power in the Gulf, awarded the islands to Bahrain and the two countries almost came to war in 1986.

Sheikh Hamad also said that the August 8 defection to Jordan of former Iraqi Industry Minister Hussein Kamel Hassan "is purely an Iraqi issue," rejecting any interference in Baghdad's internal affairs.

Qatar has called for a lifting of the oil and trade embargo imposed by the United Nations on Iraq after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

On the economic front, Sheikh Hamad admitted that Qatar's economy was stagnating but said it was a worldwide problem, and also due to the huge investments made by Qatar in gas and petrochemical projects.

"The current economic stagnation is a worldwide problem... the problem for the oil-exporting developing countries is even tougher because of the continuing fall in oil prices."

"Qatar has launched in the past two years important projects in gas, petrochemicals and fertilisers, which required considerable financing, reducing cash liquidity. We expect these projects in the near future to allow for a diversification of the economy and thereby reduce our dependence on oil."

PLO reports Libyan expulsion

(Continued from page 1)

30,000 Palestinians working in Libya without giving a reason. The Libyan leader urged other Arab states to do the same.

More than four million Palestinians live and work in Arab and foreign states.

Col. Qadhafi opposed the PLO-Israel peace deal. Since 1992, the United Nations has imposed economic, air and military sanctions on Libya as

an alleged sponsor of international terrorism.

Although Libya's main income is secured by oil sales, the sanctions have weakened its economy and affected the government's ability to continue subsidising basic food products.

The presence of more than 1.5 million foreign workers in the country added to its economic burdens and demands for hard currency.

Jordan tightens border with Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

triple checking identities of all travellers," he added.

"We also increased the already very tough measures to ensure no goods banned by the United Nations find their way to Iraq."

Truck drivers carrying food, medicine and other goods exempted by U.N. sanctions say they have to unload all their cargo for customs agents. Previously there were only spot checks.

Officials searching for hidden banned goods use metal rods to beat the bodies of the tankers used to import 75,000 barrels of Iraqi oil per day, Jordan's total supply.

Three checkpoints manned by desert police were added to five already straddling the highway to Amman. Additional temporary barricades appear without warning.

"My trip to Amman is becoming very tiring and exhausting," said an Iraqi businessman who often travels to Amman. "The border authorities are very cautious now."

Another traveller said: "It was an awful delay at the border but they were very nice to us and one guard even told me 'you are our brothers we will never turn our backs against you.'"

Jordan tightened searches three years ago after Washington complained Amman was not enforcing sanctions. Goods arriving at Jordan's port of Aqaba, Iraq's main sea link, are now searched by a Western company hired by the United Nations.

But the Kingdom says it has been unable to halt Iraqi companies in Jordan operating behind powerful Jordanian frontmen, a persistent U.S. demand.

"This will be as impossible as attempting to wipe out the mafia in Italy," said one diplomat.

13 Algerians face trial in Brussels

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Thirteen suspected members of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), an Islamic militant movement waging a bloody struggle to topple the Algerian government, go on trial here on Monday.

Among the accused is Ahmed Zaoui, 35, suspected of being a senior GIA figure in Europe. He and the other defendants — seven Algerians, a Tunisian and a Moroccan — were arrested in Belgium March 2 during a police sweep aimed at dismantling GIA logistics operations in the country.

They will appear before Judge Claire de Gryse on charges of belonging to a criminal organisation, the receipt and use of false documents and weapons violations.

The trial will be held in the War Council hall located in the basement of the justice building here, a location preferred for its absence of windows and its proximity to holding cells.

One hundred and fifty policemen have been assigned to the trial. All entrances to the justice building will be equipped with electronic detection devices.

In the last week Brussels has been plagued by a string of false alerts, triggering the intervention of army de-

mining units on four occasions in railroad and subway stations.

"But for the moment, no new terrorist threat has been directed at Belgium," said one official.

Shortly after the arrests in March, the GIA called for the release of the 10 in a communiqué sent to AFP.

"If the (Belgian) government does not respond, the GIA will take measures in conformity with Sharia (Islamic law)," said the statement, which carried the signature of the suspected head of the movement, Abu Abdul Rahman Amin.

Belgian authorities in March said Islamic groups operating from Belgium were planning to attack in another country.

But the charges have not been repeated.

"There is nothing to support a connection between those detained in March in Belgium and the attacks in Paris," insisted a Belgian official.

French police suspect Algerian militants to have been responsible for two blasts in the French capital, one in a subway station July that killed seven and injured 86 and another in August near the Arc de Triomphe that injured 17.

Businessmen define role

(Continued from page 12)

mented the international expert.

The working group reviewed the measures that the government is undertaking to amend some of the key economy and investment-related laws. The recommendations of the group are expected to include suggestions to the government on what could be further done in terms of legislation.

The third group, which worked on the "financing" aspects, dealt with what were the concerns of international financing institutions while considering financing for projects in any part of the world and related those concerns with the situation in Jordan.

Also discussed was how Jordanian banks and financial institutions could interact with foreign counterparts through partners and joint ventures as well as bonds and stocks.

Addressing the gathering were Dr. Saket, Dr. Abdul-lah Al Malki, general manager of the Association of Banks in Jordan, Philipp Kennedy, president of Ken-

edy & Company of New York, Theodore Berk, vice-president of Kennedy and Company, Greg Haddock of Sumitomo Bank, London and representatives of several international consulting firms.

The conference is sponsored by the World Affairs Council, Amman, and the Association of Banks in Amman. Co-sponsors are Sumitomo Bank, Kennedy and Company, and Phopham, Hark, Schnobrich & Kaufman Limited of Washington D.C.

According to the international observer at the conference, "the deliberations here aim at preparing Jordanian businessmen to package and present themselves at the MENA summit, fully aware of what international businessmen and financiers would be looking for."

Beyond that, said the observer, "the long-term objective is to continuously raise the awareness of Jordanian businessmen on international trends and how to be ready to interact with the fast-moving developments in world economy."

Assad, Mubarak play down Iraqi defection

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Mubarak dismissed as "pure nonsense" reports that the Iraqi military posed a threat to its neighbours.

"There are so many rumours going on here and there, all over the world concerning the defection. All these rumours, there is no evidence or proof that any of them is right," Mr. Mubarak said at the news conference.

The defection of Gen. Hassan was considered a blow to the Iraqi regime. He was a former confidant of President Saddam and oversaw Baghdad's arms production programme. After fleeing to Jordan, he said he would work with the opposition to overthrow the Iraqi leadership.

Mr. Assad arrived in Cairo with his foreign minister, Farouk Al Sharaa, and Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam. Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa and other high-ranking officials were present for the talks, which were only announced Saturday.

Mr. Assad, the longtime Syrian leader, rarely travels abroad. His last trip was to Cairo on Dec. 28, where he met Mr. Mubarak and Saudi Arabian King Fahd. He returned to Damascus Sunday.

"Perhaps there are other objectives (to the Iraqi defections) that are not yet clear," said Mr. Assad, adding, "we are not going to comment everything something like this happens."

"We want to put an end to the suffering of the Iraqi people," Mr. Mubarak added.

The Arab daily Al Hayat on Sunday quoted Western diplomatic sources in Amman as saying that Syria had put additional troops on its border with Iraq "as a precaution against any attempt to overthrow the Iraqi government."

Syria "had tried in vain the past four years to convince the United States to work with it in overthrowing the Iraqi regime," the sources said, adding that it hoped to "strengthen its regional position" with the move.

Moreover, they said, Damascus felt "that if the fall of the Iraqi regime came by a U.S.-Jordanian-Gulf initiative, it would increase (Syria's) isolation in the region."

Vice President Khaddam expressed concern late Saturday about "foreign interference" in Iraq following the defections during a meeting with Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

He condemned "interference by foreign countries in the internal affairs of Iraq" and called on those countries to "stop their interference and allow the Iraqi people to decide their future," the Arab daily Al Sharaq Al Awsat reported on Sunday.

Mr. Mubarak warned in late August against calls by Gen. Hassan and others outside Iraq for the overthrow of President Saddam, saying his fall was an "internal matter."

Mr. Mubarak also came out against any American attempt to overthrow President Saddam, to whom he offered political asylum in Egypt should be elect to step down.

In other Iraq-related developments: — Iraqi Irrigation Minister Nizar Jomaa Al Kassir has been arrested because of his ties to defector Gen. Hassan. An opposition group said, The Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), said Mr. Kassir was among about 100 military and political officials arrested for their links with Gen. Hassan.

Among the others were the former army chief-of-staff, General Rashid Takriti, and the former oil minister, Safaa Hadi Jawad, added SCIRI, a Tehran-based group.

It said 60 per cent of staff at the Military Industrialisation Organisation were arrested in a purge ordered by President Saddam.

President Saddam has also entrusted his youngest son Qusai with security in Baghdad. SCIRI said, adding he had taken charge of "all security services."

The News magazine said Mauritania's President Maouya Ould Sidi Ahmad Taya had reached favourably to the question of asylum for President Saddam in the country.

The magazine, citing anonymous intelligence sources in Mauritania, said Shabib Al Malki, the Iraqi justice minister, flew to Mauritania in July to meet with the Mauritanian leader.

U.S. News and World Report also said the United Nations would reveal this week that Iraqis had produced a toxin that causes gangrene.

Citing recently released Pentagon documents, the magazine said traces of chemicals were found on the Gulf battlefield. In the past, the Pentagon said no such weapons were found.

— Gen. Hassan has named the Arab interpreter for a senior U.N. official investigating Iraq's non-conventional weapons programme as an agent of Baghdad. Al Hayat reported.

The newspaper said Gen. Hassan identified the man during a meeting last month with Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. Special Commission responsible for dismantling Iraq's weapons programmes.

The newspaper quoted unidentified "western sources" as saying Gen. Hassan had refused to let the interpreter sit in on the meeting with Mr. Ekeus in Amman.

Al Hayat did not identify the alleged agent or give his nationality.

When Mr. Ekeus arrived for his meeting with Gen. Hassan with the interpreter, the defector immediately asked Mr. Ekeus to expel him from the session, the daily said.

Gen. Hassan reportedly told Mr. Ekeus: "This name is familiar to us. He's an Iraqi agent who has been providing Iraq with important information about the U.N. committee's activities."

— Mr. Ekeus said meanwhile Iraq's biological weapons programme had the world on the "verge of a massive catastrophe."

Mr. Ekeus told the German weekly Der Spiegel Gen. Hassan had shown him documents exceeding "everything we knew or thought we knew about the Iraqi army's biological weapons."

He added: "As far as I'm concerned, Iraq's biological weapons were at the last stage of development. They were ready to be used at any moment and would have killed millions of people."

Israel, PLO resume talks

(Continued from page 1)

threatened with the backing of Israel's rightwing opposition to set up private militias if the army is pulled out.

The Palestinians, however, want total control of the town and will only allow an Israeli military presence in the new Jewish quarter and in the Ibrahim Mosque, where a settler gunned down 30 Muslims in February 1994.

They are also against a deployment of international observers in the town, as suggested by Israel, if there is no troop withdrawal.

"I am against the presence of international observers in Hebron if the army stays," Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natsheh told AFP. "But I support their presence if the Israeli army withdraws."

On the prisoner issue, the PLO wants all 6,500 Palestinians still held in Israeli jails to be released before the start of talks on the final status of the territories due to begin in May 1996.

But Israel has only accepted to free 1,500 prisoners up to the election of a self-rule council planned for the end of the year, followed by an unspecified number of

ter an agreement on the territories.

As for Jerusalem, Israel is against any polling stations in the Arab East of the Holy City.

Mr. Arafat has instructed his peace team to speed up the negotiations.

The instructions came despite complaints by the top Palestinian negotiator Ahmad Oureia that the Israelis were dragging their feet on reaching a deal.

Mr. Peres said over the weekend that he was confident a pact could be written and signed by the end of the month. Following a meeting in Italy with Mr. Arafat, Mr. Peres also said he hoped Palestinian elections could take place by the year's end.

Mr. Arafat briefed his self-rule cabinet in Gaza City of his meeting with Mr. Peres following his return late Saturday. They also seriously discussed a proposal by U.S. Mideast envoy Dennis Ross to move the negotiations to Washington. Palestinian sources said.

"The Palestinian team has been instructed by Arafat and his cabinet to speed up the talks," said Planning Minister Nabil Shaath after the five-hour meeting.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Seeking experienced graphic designer for short-term project on tourism in Jordan. Must have own Macintosh Desktop Publishing system; either Quadra Systems or Power Macintosh 8100 or higher. Must have available studio space. Must understand the four colour separation process. Must be proficient in Quark Xpress, Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, and Microsoft Word. Must have at least 5 years professional experience. Must be able to generate maps and artwork from thumbnail sketches. Qualified individuals please fax or deliver resume and samples to:

**Jordan Tourism Board
Jabal Amman
Fax: 647915**

Interviews will be conducted on Tuesday, September 5 only.
No phone calls please.

World Bank warns U.S., allies not to ignore poor

JACKSON, Wyoming (R) — World Bank President James Wolfensohn warned the United States and its rich allies Saturday that they risked undermining fragile new democracies in the developing world by focusing too much on their own economic problems.

In his first major address since taking over as bank chief three months ago, Mr. Wolfensohn also castigated the U.S. Congress for its planned deep cuts in aid to his organization, saying the moves undermined the lending agency's credibility in the developing world.

"We're seeing throughout the developing world new democracies, fragile new democracies," Mr. Wolfensohn told an economic conference in this mountain resort. "The issue ... of our

commitment in the developed countries (is) absolutely crucial to their stability."

His speech came at the end of a two-day meeting sponsored by the Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank at which central bankers, businessmen and academics generally agreed on the need for governments to cut their budget deficits.

While not taking issue with that conclusion, Mr. Wolfensohn stressed the difficulties facing developing nations in carrying that out as they struggle to lift their people from abject poverty.

"It's very comfortable in Jackson to talk about it, but I can tell you on the ground it's damn difficult," said Mr. Wolfensohn, a former Wall Street banker who has spent much of his first three months at the World Bank visiting

poor nations in Africa, Latin America and Asia.

The new democracies of the developing world are confronted by tough budget choices while operating under a "magnifying glass of political and social pressures" not seen in the industrial world, he said.

"There is an extraordinary fragility," he added. "And combined with that fragility there are extraordinarily high expectations."

He warned industrial nations against becoming preoccupied with their own economic problems such as the need to cut budget deficits, and in the process ignoring the plight of their poorer brethren.

"I just sound the caution," Mr. Wolfensohn said. "Those who work with the developing world (such as the World Bank) are increasingly



James Wolfensohn

less credible because of (industrial countries') increasingly inward-looking examination."

IDA is an affiliate of the bank that lends money at no interest charge to the world's poorest nations.

Russian prime minister vows to defend capitalism in parliament

MOSCOW (R) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, heading a centrist bloc to run in December's parliamentary election, vowed Sunday to defend the country's transition to capitalism.

"We will oppose all who want to turn the clock back, all who want to share everything, all who want to have people lined up in ranks again," Mr. Chernomyrdin told a news conference.

"We were unique for a while and know the result. Thanks (but) enough," said the 57-year-old premier at the end of a two-day conference of his bloc "Our Home is Russia."

Many political analysts believe the communists, nostalgic for the old Soviet order, will be the biggest threat to Mr. Chernomyrdin's bloc in the poll.

Russian liberals regarded Mr. Chernomyrdin himself as a "red manager" when President Boris Yeltsin appointed him to the post in 1993, but later had to acknowledge the premier's commitment to market reform.

Mr. Chernomyrdin, who initially declared himself a pure technocrat, entered the unfamiliar world of electoral politics in May when Mr.

Yeltsin, worried by the growing strength of communists and nationalists, suggested that a powerful centrist grouping could counter-balance them.

Many government ministers and regional bosses were fast to join Mr. Chernomyrdin's bloc dubbed the "Party of Power" by Russian media. Liberal opponents accuse the premier of planning to turn Russia into an oligarchic state run by bureaucracy.

"They call us the Party of Power," Mr. Chernomyrdin said. "All right, we want power. Who doesn't?"

Mr. Chernomyrdin said that strong representation in the state Duma (lower house) would help him push through crucial legislation to speed up reform.

"How can you expect companies to develop without a law on public companies? How can you carry out agricultural reform without a law on land ownership?" he said. "Give us the laws and then ask why the government doesn't use them to the benefit of the country."

Mr. Chernomyrdin's party list is packed with well-known figures, including Oscar-winning film director and actor Nikita Mikhalkov, and army general Lev Rokh-

lin, who rejected an award for his participation in the Chechen conflict.

But facing opposition from communists, ultra-nationalists and liberal opponents — who have no impressive party lists — Mr. Chernomyrdin initially set out to use the levers of administrative power to promote his candidates.

This tactic failed last month at local elections in Yekaterinburg region, where a candidate backed by Mr. Chernomyrdin lost to popular local strongman Eduard Rossel, who seeks stronger economic independence from Moscow.

Another upset came last week, when Sergei Shakhrai, the leader of the influential centrist party Pres, left Mr. Chernomyrdin's bloc, saying it would do badly in the elections.

Latest opinion polls show that his bloc is trailing the Communist Party and in some regions is behind the liberal opposition Yabloko. Bloc of prominent economist Grigory Yavlinsky. But Mr. Chernomyrdin appeared sure of success.

"I am sure that if proper efforts are made our movement could get a solid representation in parliament," he said.

Higher oil prices boost UAE exports to Japan

ABU DHABI (AFP) — A surge in crude oil prices and larger gas supplies boosted the United Arab Emirates (UAE) exports to Japan by nearly 30 per cent in the first quarter of 1995, official figures showed Sunday.

The exports stood at nearly \$2.71 billion in the first quarter compared with around \$2.07 billion in the first quar-

ter of 1994, according to the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO).

Oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) supplies soared to around \$2.66 billion from nearly \$2.03 billion in the same period, JETRO said in a report sent to AFP from its UAE office.

It gave no details of the supplies but the UAE is the

top oil exporter to Japan, supplying it with nearly a quarter of its total crude imports.

Most of the crude is supplied by Abu Dhabi, the main oil producer in the UAE. Official UAE figures showed around 40 per cent of the country's total oil production of 2.16 million barrels per day is sold to Japan.

JETRO officials said the surge in the first quarter was due to a sharp increase in world crude prices, which averaged \$17.03 a barrel compared with \$13.50 in the first quarter of 1994.

They had no figures for the first half of 1995 but said they expected the value of supplies to be higher as oil prices remained above \$17 compared with around \$14.5 in the first half of 1994.

Another factor was a surge in LNG sales after the completion of an expansion project that doubled the output capacity of the UAE's main gas liquefaction plant on Das Island to around five million tonnes per year. Most of its production is exported to the Japanese Tokyo Electric Power Company under a long-term supply contract, which has been extended to 2020.

In contract, Japan's exports to the emirates declined to around \$549.2 million in the first quarter of 1995 from \$643.5 million in the first quarter of 1994.

This was due to lower demand caused by a surge in the yen against the U.S. dollar, to which the UAE currency, dirham, is pegged.

But the increase in oil exports offset such a decline, with the overall trade between the two countries growing to around \$3.26 billion from nearly \$2.7 billion in the same period, JETRO figures showed.

Most of Japan's exports to the UAE are electrical appliances, watches, vehicles and other manufactured products. Its non-oil imports from the Gulf OPEC producer include aluminium, food and other light products.

Japan is the UAE's biggest commercial partner, with two-way trade standing at around \$11.4 billion in 1994. The trade balance has remained largely in favour of the emirates due to large oil supplies.

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THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen

"I think it would be nice to have a little home in the country, maybe in a hollow tree or a cave."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YIXST
JETEC
YURCOT
WURCEF

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: EMBER HEAVY MANAGE COLUMN
Answer: The result of too much food and drink — A HANG OVER

THE Daily Crossword by Melvin Kenworthy

ACROSS

- Macaroni
- Helper, abbr.
- Sidekick, on the ranch
- Permit
- Nobel prize
- Exchange premium
- Climbing vine
- A Turner
- Do a street job
- Some books
- Be it — so
- Office item
- Wading birds
- Slip by
- Acclaim
- Fountain item
- Mediterranean port
- Scuffed
- Originate
- What-riot
- VT town
- In addition
- Enthusiastic liveliness
- Active beginning
- Corrupt
- bills (fence sign)
- CEO
- Palo — CA
- Legal tender
- Kind of hammer
- Entreaty
- Popeye's girl
- Decorative piece
- Fat
- Ryan of baseball
- Peddle
- Abstract being
- Clothe

DOWN

- Sensory organ
- ler—
- down (suppress)
- Normal firmness of tissue
- Things granted for merit
- Philippine natives
- Raincoat
- Basin
- Bristly flower head
- Bluffer?
- Century plant
- Fastener
- Activists
- Root vegetables
- Infatuated
- homo
- Author Anita
- Chanty
- Kitchen wiper
- Passing grades
- Twelvemonth
- Certain geographic region
- Of an epoch
- Gainsay
- Beasts of burden
- Drunkard
- Pruning shears
- Overthrow
- TV's Donny or Marie
- Covenants
- Stan's sidekick
- Kiosk
- Novelist Charles
- Woe is me!
- Swan genus
- World's longest river
- Gabor and Peron
- Urges

Yesterday's puzzle solved:

PALS STAFF BLAB
ALLIT HOMER ROPE
CLEO ENERO OBEY
SUPERANNUATED
PIURL FTH
APIARY CART FDS
RANG HANOT LAS
SUPERCONDUCTORS
OSU HEEDS ERIE
NET INDIY TIENTANT
SUPERNUMERARY
GASP IONITIA GOOP
ORIEL SITUINT LAKE
BADE TAMES ENOW

Peanuts

HOW LONG IS IT GOING TO TAKE BEFORE YOU REALIZE I'M IN NO POSITION RIGHT NOW TO FEED YOU?

I'M A QUICK LEARNER

Andy Capp

SO THAT'S IT, IS IT? WELL, GOODBYE, THAT'S WHAT I SAY!

I'VE GIVEN YOU THE BEST YEARS OF MY LIFE, AND WHAT HAVE I GOT TO SHOW FOR IT?

WHAT DO YOU WANT? A RECEIPT?

Mutt'n'Jeff

MUTT, CAN MY TWIN BROTHER, JULIUS, STAY WITH US WHILE HE'S IN TOWN?

WHY?

WELL, I CAN'T FIND A PLACE, MUTT!

HES NOT A BAD GUY TO HAVE AROUND, MUTT! AND HE'S VERY AMUSING! JULIUS, AMUSE MUTT!

NOW I COME OUT LIKE THIS! YOU GUESS WHAT STATES I REPRESENT!

WELL, THE HAT IS NEW MEXICO AND THE SWEATER IS JERSEY BUT WHAT'S THE SHOE FOR?

HA HA! I KNEW YOU'D PUT YOUR FOOT IN IT!

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Foundation

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Come to an agreement with a person in business. Doing something which will please the one you love brings fine rewards.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Cement better relations with a dynamic associate this morning, and then do nothing to upset the agreement.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Get busy at tasks ahead of you and you can accomplish a great deal today, but first get it well organized.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Be sure to get creative (less across to others this morning. Steer clear of blockages in the path of your progress.

LEO (July 22 to August 21) You begin the day properly by wanting to handle your obligations in the right way and you can do just that today.

VIRGO (August 22 to September 22) That situation between you and a partner comes right into the open today, and you settle it wisely.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Make those changes in your surroundings today, which will bring you more happiness and comfort as well.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) This can be a good day for you if you make up your mind which nothing can upset you, no matter what happens.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) If an argument starts at home, take no part in it. Forget about entertaining them and plan for another day.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 20) Get at your correspondence early since later today you may not find favour with others, so rest up and you will succeed in your duties.

AQUARIUS (January 21 to February 19) Go over your accounts for possible errors, and then today and make the collections possible and pay bills which are pressing.

PISCES (February 20 to March 20) You have good judgement this morning, but later today could lose your cool over comments from others if you are not careful.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli



Saket: Banking accounts for 17% of GDP

ASSETS OF financial and insurance institutions add up to nearly JD 8.3 billion, economist and former minister Bassam Al Saket told an economic seminar. He pointed out that this figure represents 194 per cent of Jordan's gross domestic product (GDP). Dr. Saket indicated that the banking sector alone accounts for 85 per cent of the total assets and that although it employs three per cent of the workforce, the banking sector contributes 17 per cent of the GDP.

The speaker said the financial institutions should raise their investments which currently stand as low as 7.3 per cent of its assets. The insurance sector should also modify its investment distribution, Dr. Saket said, pointing out that insurance companies were mainly investing in real estate and construction. "The coming period is characterised by preparing for the regional and international changes and our negotiations with World Trade Organisation, the successor of GATT, require special attention and study," Dr. Saket added. "We look for a wider diversification of monetary tools and the depositor and the investor seek a higher level of banking control and a transparency, in getting periodic economic information about companies and industrial entities so he (depositor or investor) can base his/her investment decision on documented bases and not on moves and expectations of speculators" (Al Rai).

ACCORDING to a high-ranking official, negotiations will start soon with the World Bank over the possibility of obtaining an \$80 million loan from the bank and other countries. If obtained, the loan will be used to support the balance of payments and building-up reserves. The preliminary negotiations aim at reaching a tentative agreement on the terms of the loan which could be drawn before the end of this year (Al Aswaq).

A NUMBER of companies which manufacture electrical appliances are taking practical steps to put an end to the "burnt market" which spread in the past few years and resulted in many traders fleeing the country leaving behind JD 30 million of debts. Local manufacturers and importers have now resorted to cash sales to avoid ending up with bounced checks being returned by banks for insufficient funds. Hani Al Khalili, head of the association of traders in electrical and electronic products, ruled out the return of the "burnt market" and pointed out that only some stocks might have resurfaced on a limited scale. He stressed that the manufacturers were selling at an encouraging price for cash payments to enable traders stay in the business. Retailers are also demanding guarantees higher than the sale amount and refusing to sell large quantities under instalments even if the offer was tempting. Previously a number of traders were selling electrical appliances in instalments without receiving guarantees or downpayments from people who even had no dealings with the banks. A manager of a large establishment blamed the Ministry of Industry and Trade for approving the setting up of many television, refrigerator and washing machine manufacturers without conducting an actual study of the needs of the market and its future potential. He said that such a number of industries helped create the phenomenon of "burnt prices" although "true" traders had nothing to do with it. (Al Aswaq).

Coca-Cola pulls out of Iran

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — The next time Iranians reach for a Coke it won't be the real thing.

The Coca-Cola Co. has stopped delivery of its secret formula following a U.S. ban on trade with Iran, the company's local subsidiary, the Nushab Co., said in a newspaper advertisement.

The ad in the Farsi-language Kayhan daily said the local firm would continue to use the trademark Coke bottles for the time being. But they will be filled with locally-made orange sodas until new bottles could be produced.

The ad said Coca-Cola had acted on the orders of President Bill Clinton, who imposed a trade embargo on Tehran in June after accusing the Iranians of sponsoring international terrorism and trying to manufacture nuclear weapons.

Coke, seen by Iranian officialdom as a symbol of U.S. imperialism, returned to Iran only last year after a 15-year ban brought on by the Islamic revolution.

But the popular drink returned with little fanfare. For weeks, many Iranians weren't even sure they were drinking real Coke or locally-manufactured sodas sold in old Coca-Cola bottles since the revolution.

Financial Markets

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (August 28-September 1, 1995)

AMMAN — The U.S. unit witnessed modest losses against the mark and sterling, while appreciating marginally against the yen last week. It ended the week 0.55 per cent lower against mark, 0.35 per cent lower against sterling, and 0.80 per cent higher against the yen.

The dollar depreciated marginally against sterling and the mark Monday, while appreciating modestly against the yen. News that France's finance minister had resigned the previous week continued to influence the market and prompted investors to buy marks. Comments from the new French finance minister that he will continue to reduce government expenditure did not convince traders that the French government will be able to reduce its budget deficit.

The U.S. unit rose against other major currencies Tuesday. The dollar's rise came on the back of Mead's expectations that the Bundesbank will further ease its monetary policy. The expectations were supported by an article in German newspaper revealing that the president of the Bundesbank sees room for lower German interest rates. On the economic statistics front, U.S. existing home sales rose by 715 thousand units in July, compared to 712 thousand units in June, while the consumer sentiment reported showed a rise to 101 in August, compared to analysts' expectations of a rise up to 100.5.

The dollar continued its depreciation against the mark and sterling Wednesday, however, while rising against the yen. The U.S. unit rose against the yen on dealers' worries about the soundness of the Japanese financial system. However, profit taking operations that took place after the dollar surged above 99 yen capped the dollar's rise. The Bundesbank move to lower the securities repurchase rate to 4.3 per cent did not affect the dollar.

While the U.S. unit depreciated marginally against other major currencies Thursday, it rose marginally against the yen at the end of the week. Reports indicated that the dollar's decline was attributed to dealers adjusting their positions ahead of the U.S. Labour Day holiday the following Monday. Meanwhile, the U.S. Labour Department released the non-farm payrolls data showing a surprise increase of 249 thousand persons in August, which caused the unemployment rate to nudge down to 5.6 per cent. On the other hand, the closely watched National Association of Purchasing Managers index slipped to 46.9, compared to a consensus forecast of a rise to 51.5. The U.S. economic statistics released during the week thus left analysts confused, as they failed to give clear indications as to where the U.S. economy is heading.

The U.S. unit, ended the week at 1.4628 marks, 97.43 yen and at \$1.5560 to sterling.

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7120	0.7120
Sterling Pound	1.1050	1.1085
Deutsche Mark	0.4851	0.4875
Swiss Franc	0.5914	0.5944
French Franc	0.1406	0.1413
Japanese Yen	0.7284	0.7320
Dutch Guilder	0.4326	0.4348
Swedish Krona		
Italian Lira	0.0438	0.0440
Belgian Franc		

Marriott charity train ride celebrates 10 years

ON THURSDAY, Sept. 7, 1995, the fabled old Hijaz train makes another journey into history, once again for a noble and worthy cause. The train will take a scenic route, departing from the Mahata Station at 5:30 p.m. As sunset falls upon the dramatic landscapes on the way to Jiza, donors and their guests will arrive in Daba's castle for a special candlelight dinner-dance. A magnificent buffet feast prepared in their honour awaits them. This will be followed by a night of dancing, with music provided by Asia Band and Music Box. The Amman Marriott charity train ride is an annual event, and proceeds are donated to the Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation and Education of the Physically Handicapped. This year marks its 10th anniversary.

Her Royal Highness Prince Majda Ra'ad Zeid, president of Al Hussein Society, says that the funds raised yearly by the train ride go a long way to help in defraying the centre's operational costs, which run to JD 150,000 per annum. "The annual charity train ride has been of immense help to the Society. Apart from the massive publicity the event generates, it has provided us with great contacts, and widened the number of our donors and benefactors, to whom we are deeply grateful. And of course, people have wonderful fun on the train ride!" the Princess says.

'Low-income women are the best credit risk in the world' Pioneer banker seeks credit access for poor women

BEIJING (R) — When banker Nancy Barry talks of her clients, she does not mean men in suits with computers under their arms but women who sell vegetables and fruit or pick rags on the streets, from Manila to Mexico City.

It is these 500 million poor, most of them women, who are a major focus at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, which opens in Beijing Monday. Ms. Barry, who worked for 15 years in the World Bank until 1990, has a plan to help them.

"We have demonstrated that low-income women are the best credit risk in the world," she said. "Their repayment rate is 95 to 98 per cent, better than that of large clients of commercial banks," she said in an interview.

Mediobanca shows mastery over Italian industry

MILAN (R) — Merchant bank Mediobanca and its inter-circle of allies have once again demonstrated the awesome power they exert over Italian business with their audacious move to reshape the

country's chemicals sector. In one of the most remarkable realignments the Milan Bourse has seen, financial holding Ferruzzi Finanziaria will be absorbed into Gemina, an investment company part-owned by Mediobanca and car group Fiat.

Gemina announced the complex share swap deal, which still requires a green light from Italy's anti-trust body, late Friday ending a summer of speculation that a final settlement was at hand to end the problem of debt-laden Ferruzzi.

Ferruzzi and its subsidiary, industrial giant Montedison, have been under the control of a consortium of banks led by Mediobanca since 1993 when the two companies were brought to the brink of ruin by the discovery of huge concealed debts.

Other creditor banks were keen to pull themselves clear of the group, now well on the road to recovery, but Mediobanca did not want to lose control of Italy's second biggest private firm.

Instead the bank's octogenarian honorary chairman Enrico Cuccia has worked out a deal which leaves Gemina in charge of Ferruzzi, with Mediobanca firmly at the heart of the investment company's shareholder pact

thanks to an eight per cent stake. Fiat will also have an eight per cent stake, while banking allies Credito Italiano, Banca Commerciale Italiana, Banca di Roma and Paribas look set to take a combined 13 per cent.

The highly discreet Mediobanca arguably wields more influence in Italy than any comparable bank in other major industrial economies, its web of influence stretching far across the country's industrial and financial landscape.

With its orchestrated move to Ferruzzi, which will also see Fiat-controlled chemicals group Snia sucked into the orbit of what has been dubbed "super-Gemina," Mediobanca has pulled off another coup, further consolidating its power.

But while recognising the financial brilliance of the Gemina plan, which will create a group with annual turnover of nearly 40 billion lire (\$25 billion), analysts have questioned the industrial sense of creating a conglomerate at a time when most businesses around the world are focusing on core concerns.

credit on moneylenders who charge up to 50 per cent interest a month, week or day, Ms. Barry said. Her aim is to reach 100 million of them by 2005 and 180 million by 2025.

To reach this ambitious target, she wants 10 per cent of the world's annual development aid to provide seed capital for such financing, up from the current two per cent. In a world with aid-fatigue, her proposal has much to recommend it.

"Financing among the donors has become a dirty word at Beijing," Ms. Barry said. "No one wants to talk about funding anything."

The selling point of her proposal is that the money she wants from donors would be repaid, unlike aid that

goes into a road or railway. It would be used to give WWB affiliates part of the money they need to develop economies of scale over the first five years before they can raise from commercial banks.

"This requires a serious reallocation of funding by external funders and fortunate-

ly this is now being recognised as the key lever on poverty alleviation by most donors," she said.

This is because low-income women are better borrowers than their male counterparts, spending loans to develop their business and the increased income on health, housing, education and family welfare, all of them targets of the women's conference.

"Women are the more responsible part of humankind," she said.

Studies in Poland, Malaysia and India found substantial amounts of the loans were spent by men on alcohol, gambling and women.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SEMINARI				
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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SEPTEMBER 03/09/1995				
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK PTC	1150	265075	226.000	230.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	1800	8096	4.500	4.500
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	80050	36215	1.190	1.180
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	1850	4625	2.500	2.500
THE HOUSING BANK	2450	13992	5.700	5.710
JORDAN KOWAT BANK	17715	48721	2.790	2.790
JORDAN GULF BANK	833	453	1.100	1.110
JORDAN ISLAND BANK	2493	9322	3.740	3.770
BUSINESS BANK	700	2589	3.870	3.850
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1000	4000	4.000	4.000
BEIT KHALIL SAVINGS/INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	1050	3386	3.280	3.280
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	79780	78009	980	980
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	150	810	5.400	5.400
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	4500	6975	1.640	1.650
BANKS SECTOR	145530	462991	INDEX NUMBER: 187.14	CHANGE: +1.36%
JERUSALEM INSURANCE	200	820	4.100	4.100
INSURANCE SECTOR	200	820	INDEX NUMBER: 135.38	CHANGE: +0.00%
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	12900	21007	1.600	1.630
VEHICLES OWNERS FEDERATION	600	4200	7.100	7.000
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	33000	181500	5.500	5.600
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	2480	5143	2.080	2.090
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	250	288	1.160	1.180
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CANADIAN HOTELS	152	182	2.200	2.180
ARAB ENTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	2900	9152	3.160	3.160
ARABIA PRIVATE UNIVERSITY	10116	13210	1.310	1.320
SERVICE SECTOR	62764	235691	INDEX NUMBER: 125.82	CHANGE: +0.94%
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	6763	24905	3.720	3.660
JORDAN PROSPERITY MISSES	2000	6060	3.030	3.030
THE ARAB POSTAGE	2100	10490	5.000	4.960
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	840	7912	9.420	9.420
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	188	589	3.200	3.180
THE JORDAN WOODSTOCK MILLS	117	883	7.550	7.550
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	789	3930	4.990	4.980
JORDAN BATH	2100	375	2.500	2.500
THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	3780	1500	4.000	4.000
JORDAN PAPER & CARDBOARD FACTORIES	163	636	3.880	3.900
RAPIA INDUSTRIES	600	1350	2.250	2.250
BAR AL RAMA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	12479	93471	7.800	7.490
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	850	4556	6.500	5.280
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	28088	57500	480	480
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	1250	1713	1.370	1.370
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	1735	1746	1.010	1.010
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	2150	4311	2.000	2.000
JORDAN POLYMER INDUSTRIES	900	990	1.100	1.100
ALADIN INDUSTRIES	3121	13078	4.200	4.200
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	454	454	4.510	4.540
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	250	533	2.140	2.130
KANTHER INVESTMENT	100	150	1.460	1.500
UNIVERSAL MOBILE INDUSTRIES	2800	6925	3.130	3.160
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	6161	6161	1.980	1.990
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	9250	16252	1.590	1.670
INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	2382	3157	1.330	1.330
UNION CHEMICAL & VEGETABLE OIL INDUSTRY	1800	3695	2.030	2.050
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	114376	245186	INDEX NUMBER: 125.84	CHANGE: +0.45%
GRAND TOTAL	322870	964687	INDEX NUMBER: 156.76	CHANGE: +0.71%
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET		75046		
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET		53220		

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

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Agassi puts out Edberg; Martinez, Becker, Date advance to 4th round

NEW YORK (AFP) — Andre Agassi rebounded from some of the worst play of his tennis reign to beat former world number one Stefan Edberg here Saturday and reach the round of 16 at the U.S. Open.

Agassi won 11 straight games in the final two sets to crush the two-time U.S. Open champion 6-4, 6-3, 6-1. It was his first-ever Grand Slam showdown and Agassi has now beaten the Swede six times in seven meetings since 1990.

"Regardless of what he has played like lately, he is still Edberg. I have to have respect for that," Agassi said.

"If you don't come out ready to play your best tennis, the games can go by pretty quickly."

The defending U.S. and Australian Open champion improved his winning streak to 23 matches, matching the personal mark he set seven years ago.

Agassi did take a loss off the court, however. He was fined \$2,000 for yelling obscenities in a woe-filled five-set win over Spain's Alex Corretja.

The American rated himself 40 per cent better against Edberg than in round two.

"His great strength is return of serve and he is playing with a lot of confidence," Edberg said.

"He takes the ball very early and makes you work very hard. What he did good was playing the points that matter. That is where he was far better than I."

Agassi faced break point in the 10th game of the opening set, but won three straight to win it.

After breaking Edberg to lead 3-0, Agassi won six games in a row with only one unforced error to take the second set and then swept to a 5-0 lead in the third.

"I just stepped it up and he started serving the ball into my wheelhouse," Agassi said. "That was a no-no."

Agassi's top rival, world number-two Pete Sampras, meets Australia's Mark Philippoussis in a third-round match.

Fans are hoping for a Sampras-Agassi final, but Agassi is concentrating on his next opponent — the 75th-ranked American Jared Palmer.

"Jared is much more important to me now than Pete Sampras," he said.

In the women's singles, Monica Seles breezed past Japan's Yone Kamio 6-1, 6-1.

to stay unbeaten in her comeback after a 1993 on-court stabbing.

Seles needed only 53 minutes to improve to 8-0 in WTA matches since her return and set up a round of 16 meeting with Germany's 11th-seeded Anke Huber.

"I'm definitely going to have to raise my game a few levels to play her," said Seles, who beat Huber during the Toronto title run.

"It's going to be a hard-hitting match. I'm sure we are going to hit bazookas out there."

Seles played with a bandage on her left knee for the first time in the \$9.86 million event. She used a similar wrapping because of tendinitis last month at the Canadian Open when she cruised to the title.

"It was pretty sore this morning and I didn't want to take any chances," Seles said. "It wasn't the best so I decided to put it on."

Also Conchita Martinez who has not lost since the Wimbledon semifinals eight weeks ago, made it 15 matches in a row, beating Naoko Sawamatsu of Japan 6-1, 6-2 to reach the fourth round of the U.S. Open.

Steffi Graf has a tough test Sunday against 16th-ranked American Chanda Rubin while reigning women's champion and third seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain faces 14th seeded Mary Joe Fernandez.

Fifth-seed Jana Novotna beat France's Sandrine Testud 6-4, 7-5, to set up a fourth-round match with Slovakia's Katarina Studenikova, who eliminated Italy's Natalia Baudone 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Seventh seed Kimiko Date of Japan eliminated Argentina's Florencia Tabar 3-6, 6-1, 6-4, and will now face big-serving 16th seed Brenda Schultz-McCarthy of the Netherlands. The Dutch player outplayed Mexico's Angelica Gavaldon 6-2, 7-5.

Zina Garrison Jackson, who has changed her mind about retirement at the end of the season, beat fellow-American Nicole Arendt 6-0, 7-6 (7/3). Arendt managed only 12 points in the 23-minute first set.

In the men's singles, fourth seed Boris Becker put out Australia's Jason Stoltenberg 6-2, 4-6, 6-0, 6-4, to stay on course for a possible semifinal clash with Agassi.

The former world number one from Germany stopped a string of seven straight service breaks in the second game of set two and then cruised.

"It didn't feel like a man's match out there," joked Becker after the match. He now plays 13th seed Marc Rosset of Switzerland who beat Italy's Renzo Furlan.

Armenia's Sargis Sargsian, the lowest ranked player to reach the third round at 392, crashed 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 to Palmer while Czech Daniel Vacek eliminated Nicolas Pereira of Venezuela 4-6, 7-6 (7/5), 6-2, 7-6 (7/3).

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U.S. Open quips and quotes

Quips and quotes heard around the courts during the first week of the U.S. Open.

* American junior champion, Justin Gimelstob, 18, and a straight-A college student at UCLA, when asked what he would be studying his second year: "Girls."

* Lisa Raymond, after losing her second round match, and her concentration, on a bad call: "I stepped up to the line just wanting to kill the umpire."

* After Andre Agassi said he had improved his thinking on the court, this exchange with a reporter followed: Q: "I think a few years ago you said you are not at your best when you are thinking. So have you kind of changed your thinking about your thinking?"

Agassi: "I don't know. I haven't thought about it, to be honest."

* Jeff Tarango on the toll the fines and punishment is taking in the aftermath of his Wimbledon explosion: "I feel like a victim. That is probably the worst I would use... used and abused. I go to the chiropractor three times a week. He says I am so stressed out he can't even turn my neck."

* Pete Sampras on his old friend Tarango: "He just went over the line and he paid the price."

* Shuzo Matsuoka on why he did not call for a trainer upon collapsing on court in agony from severe cramping during a match: "I wanted to ask it, but I only can do the screaming at that time."

* Martina Hingis, on comparisons between her and teenaged burnout victim, Jennifer Capriati: "I live in Europe. Jennifer Capriati lives in America. It is another family. I don't know Capriati and there just hasn't been the same kind of theatre around me as there has been around Capriati."

* Jim Courier, raised in a small, conservative, southern town, on why he prefers a baseball cap over a bandana: "Dude City People don't wear bandanas too much."

* Pete Sampras on his much discussed rivalry with Andre Agassi: "This rivalry has been talked about and the hype has been extreme... the rivalry just seems like it's a little bit out of hand now."

* Luke Jensen on the fleeting nature of fame: "I was in New Haven with Rod Laver and some kid came up to me and asked for my autograph and didn't ask for Rod Laver's... so my 15 minutes to contribute to this game is right now."

* Luke Jensen on Thomas Muster's decision to skip Wimbledon: "Thomas Muster is going to look back one day and his grandkids are going to say: 'Hey, grandpa, how did you do at Wimbledon?' He goes: 'You know, I



Stefan Edberg of Sweden leaps high for a return shot to top seed Andre Agassi (AFP photo)

didn't play." It is like grandkids are going to say. What was wrong with you? What were you taking? What were you smoking?

Thomas Muster on opponent Luke Jensen's frequent shirt changes: "It is just difficult when you look at him every two games and you have to look around with the new shirt to find him."

* Zina Garrison Jackson on Billie Jean King, who helped convince Garrison Jackson to go with her heart and postpone retirement: "Sometimes I think she is like this little angel that hangs over people or something."

* Byron Black of Zimbabwe on the prospects of persuading his father to come over to watch him play: "He told me when my brother and sister are in the main draw he will come over. It is tough to get him off the farm."

* Todd Martin, joking about his goals at the U.S. Open: "My main objective is to avoid the groupies that are hanging around in the players' lounge."

* Mats Wilander, when asked if he thought he could have beaten today's top players in his prime: "Did you ever think about the girls that you get when you are 18 compared to 45? It is not going to happen. Okay. It is never going to happen again. I am telling you."

Two-time French Open champion and clay court specialist, Sergi Bruguera, on new coach John McEnroe's inability to get him past the second round: "Well, he is not God."

* Confident Russian, Yevgeny Kafelnikov, ranked 7, when asked what he needed to add to his game: "I have everything."

U.S. Open notebook

* U.S. Davis Cup captain Tom Gullikson has not made a decision on his doubles team for the upcoming semifinal match against Sweden in Las Vegas later this month.

Gullikson has until Sept. 12 to name his team. It is a foregone conclusion that the world's No. 1 and 2 players — Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras — will be performing singles duty for the U.S. squad.

"I'm exploring all the options," Gullikson said. "It's nice to have a choice."

The problem is that the two most likely doubles teams Jared Palmer-Richey Reneberg and Jim Grabb-Patrick McEnroe — have both had disappointing results this summer, including first-round losses at the U.S. Open.

With Jan Apell, half of Sweden's normal doubles entry suffering from a shoulder injury, the Swedes seem likely to play Jonas Bjorkman and Stefan Edberg. That Duo also lost in the first round of

the Open.

Gullikson said that no one has been dismissed from consideration, including Todd Martin and Jim Courier, who are better known as singles players.

"I'm probably not going to decide until after the Open," Gullikson said. "I don't want to put any pressure on any of the guys."

* Phone madness: Over 10,000 tennis fans have dialed the IBM sports info line to get updated news about the progress of the U.S. Open.

The line opened Sunday, Aug. 27, and will continue through Sept. 10, the final day of the Open.

Calers can retrieve information on matches in progress, a given day's schedule and results, the next day's schedule and inquiries about players' schedules.

* Tiebreaker turns 25: It was 25 years ago Saturday that the tiebreaker was first utilized at a Grand Slam event.

There was 26 tiebreakers played on that first day of the U.S. Open in 1970. Two players — Bob McKinley and Ray Ruffels — won their opening-round matches in fifth-set tiebreakers.

The original tiebreaker was the nine-point sudden death system known as the vass. In 1975, the current 12-point tiebreaker was instituted.

'Future of World Student Games assured'

FUKUOKA (Agencies) — The biggest World Student Games ever held ended Sunday having failed to attract the world record or television attention it desperately sought.

But the event's future is assured, according to the Universiade movement's leader, Primo Nebiolo, before watching the spectacular closing ceremony in the Fukuoka Dome stadium.

Nebiolo, president of the Student Games governing body as well as the International Amateur Athletic Federation, said: "I am very optimistic about the future of this movement. We will continue to survive."

Survival has always been a key question for the Student Games, now 36-years-old. It has never attracted much sponsorship but while the communist-bloc countries sent their trainee world beaters to the event it attracted some attention.

The struggle really started in 1989 when the German city of Dusseldorf rescued the event after Sao Paulo could not afford to stage it. Sheffield lost millions in 1991 as did Buffalo in 1993 when it hosted the first Universiade in the United States.

This year television cameras have devoted their attention to the U.S. Open tennis and European Swimming Championships.

Big names on the track and field mostly shunned the strictly amateur Universiade which came just after the world championships in Gothenburg and before the Grand Prix finals in Monte Carlo next weekend.

But, according to Nebiolo, the Universiade's ideal is too important to be compared with a lack of stars.

The Universiade allows "leaders of tomorrow" to live together and compete together for the cause of peace, he said.

He said other Japanese cities had expressed interest in hosting future Games even though Fukuoka spent three billion dollars on new sports facilities, roads and other infrastructure.

According to the organizers it was still a record-breaking Games with 5,740 people from 162 countries, 3,949 of them athletes, taking part.

Americans tie Japan in medals race

The United States tied Japan for the World University Games gold medals championship Sunday by winning the final track relay race at a speed that broke a 16-year-old games record.

Each finished the 12-day "student olympics" with 24 golds, out the Americans won in total medals, 69 to 64.

O'Brien scoops big Irish juvenile event

THE CURRAGH, Ireland (R) — Record-breaking Aidan O'Brien saddled four of the first five home in the valuable Tattersalls Breeders Stakes on Saturday.

Last month the all-conquering 25-year-old trainer saddled the first three home in Ireland's famous Galway Plate.

O'Brien sent out nine of the 29 runners for Saturday's six furlong (1.2 km) feature for two-year-olds, taking the race with 9-1 chance No Animosim.

The winner was ridden by former Irish champion flat jockey Christy Roche who was enjoying his 10th success of the season.

Stable-companion Troysend, a 33-1 shot ridden by Pat Shanahan, stayed on for second four lengths behind.

Only Key To A Million, an 11-1 chance trained by Richard Hannon in England, prevented O'Brien from a clean sweep of the top prizes when she held off Don't Dwell by three-parts of a length for third spot.

Archway Belle came home fifth to complete another remarkable feat for O'Brien.

In a brilliant spell in July, O'Brien saddled at least one winner, over 23 consecutive days, racing in Ireland.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HIRSCH ©1994 Tribune Media Services Inc.

DRAW THE RIGHT INFERENCE

North-South vulnerable, South deals.

NORTH
♠ A Q J 10 6 4 3
♥ 10 8 6 4 3
♦ J 7 5
♣ A 4 2

WEST
♠ J 10 7 6 4
♥ 7 5
♦ K 8 2
♣ Q 9 8

EAST
♠ K 2
♥ Q J 9 2
♦ 8 6
♣ J 10 7 5 3

SOUTH
♠ 9 8 5 3
♥ A K
♦ A Q A 10 9 4
♣ A K

The bidding: SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass
Opening lead: Six of ♠

To solve a problem, place the cards in the way you possible, then see if you can overcome that distribution. The inferences you draw from mentally assigning cards to specific hands will often point the way to a solution.

This hand is from a team game, and both sides reached three no trump, albeit by slightly different routes. At both tables the lead was a low spade. At one table the contract went down a trick; at the other it was made and the defenders were helpless to prevent declarer from cashing up the game.

At the first table declarer took the spade finesse, losing to East's king. A spade return removed declarer's stopper sp, when West gained the lead with the king of diamonds, three more spade tricks defeated the contract one trick.

At the other table, declarer worked out the winning line. Nothing could stop nine tricks if the king of diamonds was onside or, if spades broke 4-3. Therefore, declarer concentrated on finding a way home should spades be 5-2 and the king of diamonds with West.

Holding K J 10 x x of spades and the king of diamonds, West might well have overcalled one spade at favorable vulnerability, or led an honor. On any other 5-2 distribution, putting up the ace of spades at trick one could not lose. If East had a doubleton jack or ten, the nine would be a fourth-round stopper; and if East held the king, winning the first trick blocks the suit.

So West rose with the ace of spades and ran the jack of diamonds to West's king. The spade return was taken by East's king, but since West held no fast entry, declarer was able to rake in nine tricks.

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Monica Seles of the U.S. returns a shot to Yone Kamio of Japan in the U.S. Open match. Seles won 6-1, 6-1 (AFP photo)

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Deportivo kick off season with win

MADRID (AP) — Brazilian striker Bebeto started the season hot with two goals as Deportivo de La Coruna began its title quest Saturday with a 3-0 victory over Valencia.

Deportivo, first-division runner-up for the last two seasons after rising from the second division four years ago, came on strong from the opening minutes under its new coach, Welshman John Toshack.

Valencia's solid defense held until Javier Manjarin beat two defenders and dodged goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta in the 51st minute. Seven minutes later Bebeto made it 2-0 on a pass from Francisco "Fran" Gonzalez.

Bebeto, one of the league's top scorers last year, added his second goal in the 59th minute as the dribbled around several Valencia defenders in the area and took his time before slamming one in off the left post.

Talk of whether Deportivo could finally win its coveted title against defending champions Real Madrid began as soon as the game was over.

"We know it won't be easy (to win the title) but we've got to do the best we can," Brazilian international Mauro Da Silva said after the victory.

Deportivo has shined in preseason games with a 7-0 thrashing of German powerhouse Bayern Munich and two defeats of Real Madrid in the Super Cup.

The club has also been strengthened with the addition of Russian striker Dimitri Rudchenko and former Barcelona forward Aitor Beguiristain to back up Bebeto and fellow Brazilian ace Mauro Silva.

In other play Saturday, Alhacete went down to a 3-0 defeat at sporting De Gijon.

Sporting's Russian international Igor Ledakhov, who came from Moscow's Spartak last year, opened scoring in the 16th minute. Julio Salinas made it 2-0 five minutes later and Tomas Alhacete Hervas put it all away for Sporting in the 43rd.

Defending champion Real Madrid travels across the capital to face first division returnee Rayo Vallecano while a revamped Barcelona starts off against Valladolid.

The 1995-96 season has two novelties: Expansion to 22 teams from the usual 20, and a change in the scoring system that awards three points for a win instead of the previous two.

Bayern Munich open up 5-point lead

BONN (AFP) — Bayern Munich forged a five-point gap at the top of the German Bundesliga on Saturday after just four matches with a 2-0 derby win at Munich 1860.

Last year's disappointing sixth spot has been firmly lodged in distant memory following Bayern's 100 per cent record this term.

Christian Ziege headed home the first for the visitors from a Thomas Helmer cross with a quarter of an hour to go. Christian Nerlinger added another in the 86th minute for three more points for 12 in total.

However Bayern, notching their 92nd win against their neighbours in front of a 70,000 crowd, only found the net once strikers Juergen Klinsmann, back from injury, and Jean-Pierre Papin both went off in the 73rd minute.

Klinsmann, Germany's international skipper, partially tore tendons in his right ankle on Aug. 12 and Bayern president Frank Beckenbauer said Klinsmann needed more time to get back to his best.

And on the whole team, Beckenbauer added: "...I sometimes had the impression they were taking the game too lightly."

A trio of clubs — promoted teams Sanki Pauli and Hansa Rostock, and Borussia Moenchengladbach — are equal second on seven points. None of them could win this weekend.

Borussia Moenchengladbach, who led the Bundesliga on Tuesday night, lost their unbeaten record against champions Borussia Dortmund.

Moenchengladbach's Swedish striker Marlin Dahlin headed the opener in the 19th minute, but Stefan Reuter, with a penalty, and an 80th minute winner from Lars Ricken settled the match.



Britain's Frank Bruno, accompanied by wife Laura, celebrates his WBC world heavyweight title victory over Oliver

McCall of the U.S. Sept. 2. Bruno won the fight on a unanimous points decision (Reuters photo)

Bruno wins world heavyweight crown

LONDON (AFP) — Frank Bruno's world heavyweight title dream came true here Saturday when he unanimously outpointed WBC titleholder Oliver McCall over twelve bruising rounds in front of 30,000 partisan fans at Wembley Stadium.

But although the British boxer dominated all of the early rounds, he was clearly close to exhaustion in the eleventh and twelfth rounds, and he was forced to hang on desperately for the final bell.

All three judges gave the fight to the 33-year-old Bruno by 115-113, 117-111 and 117-111 margins.

Bruno's historic victory was greeted with a shower of red, white and blue ticker tape and a rousing rendition of "Land of Hope and Glory."

It was one of the most memorable sporting nights in British history, with the crowd willing "big Frank" to claim the ultimate prize after a hat-trick of failures.

Many thought Bruno was lucky to get this chance. But he had the right connections in the shape of his new promoter Frank Warren. And Bruno did not let him down.

believed he should have hung up his gloves.

Victory over McCall proved them wrong.

Along those cheering on Bruno was his close friend — British super middleweight king Nigel Benn.

Benn earlier retained his WBC title by knocking out American opponent Danny Perez in the seventh round of a scheduled 12-round contest. It was Benn's ninth successful defence of his crown and he now has a record of 42 wins against two defeats and one draw.

In the night's other world title clash, stylish American Virgil Hill retained his World Boxing Association (WBA) light-heavyweight title by outpointing Drake Thadzi of Malawi over twelve rounds. The judges scored it 117-111, 118-112, 119-110 to stretch the 31-year-old Hill's record to 41 wins against one defeat.

After his win, Bruno, speaking through swollen lips from the pounding he took in the final rounds, said: "If I won 20 million pounds in the National Lottery it couldn't beat this."

"I'm elated — on top of the world. All my dreams have come true. It really hasn't sunk in yet. I've persevered all these years and I'd just like to thank all those people who stuck with me."

"I think I've earned it. He was the champion and I've taken his title away. He was one tough son of a gun and I'm bruised and battered."

"But life is all about bumps and bruises. I knew I had to dig deep, but I wasn't going to let this chance slip away. It was a hard last round. I took some shots, but I knew he had to knock me out to win. Now I would love another shot at Mike Tyson. That's my dream. Then I can retire."



Pat Riley smiles during a press conference after he was named president and head coach of the Miami Heat (AFP photo)

Heat name Riley president, head coach

MIAMI (R) — One day after settling a tampering charge filed by the New York Knicks, the Miami Heat named Pat Riley as their president and head coach on Saturday.

Terms of the contract were not disclosed, but the Miami Herald reported that the deal is worth \$15 million over five years and includes an ownership interest in the team.

The hiring ends a 21-month standoff in which the Knicks accused the Heat of illegally contacting Riley before he stepped down as head coach of the Knicks on June 15.

"This is one of the dramatic changes in my life," Riley said at a news conference on a cruise ship docked in Miami. "It was a matter of lifestyle. It was a matter of commitment."

He also criticised what he considered a lack of stability in New York, saying the team had three corporate owners in a year and a half.

Mickey Arison, who became primary owner of the Heat in February, said: "I think there is no better demonstration of our commitment than presenting to our fans today the most successful coach in the NBA as the

new head coach of the Miami Heat."

The two teams Friday reached a settlement on the tampering charges. The agreement calls for the Knicks to receive \$1 million and a 1996 or 1997 first-round draft choice previously acquired by Miami from the Atlanta Hawks. In return, the Knicks allowed the Heat to enter into an employment agreement with Riley.

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Jordanian businessmen seek to define own role and priorities in new era

Process should not be a one-shot drill limited to MENA summit, says Saket

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian businessmen huddled together on Sunday in what was obviously a soul-searching exercise over their role in the new economic realities of the era, their strengths and weaknesses and how to institutionalise interaction among themselves and the outside world.

Titled "The 1995 Jordan Officers Summit (EO Summit)", the two-day event is widely seen as a most essential internal exchange of views by the Jordanian private sector as the Kingdom is gearing up to host the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit next month.

Basem Saket, one of the organisers of the EO Summit, emphasised that the effort for coordination among Jordanian businessmen as well as with the government could not and should not be a "one-time exercise."

"The skills that we seek to develop here are of significant long-term nature and should serve as essential elements" in Jordanian businessmen's approach to existing businesses as well as future projects, said Dr. Saket.

"It has to be a continuous process aimed at preparing ourselves for interaction not only among ourselves but also with the outside world," Dr. Saket told the Jordan Times. "We are fully aware of our shortcomings," added Dr. Saket in one of the rare self-admissions by any Jordanian businessman that Jordan lacks effective private sector institutions with executive power.

"Let us admit it, the Jordanian private sector had mostly depended on the government to take the initiative," said Dr. Saket. "We have several private sector institutions, but they are like heads



Basem Saket

without bodies" and this has to be clearly addressed if Jordanian businesses are to take full advantage of economic opportunities.

For its part, said Dr. Saket, "the government is held hostage of its own rules and regulations and practices."

"It is high time the Jordanian economy is clearly delineated," said the former minister, who now chairs the board of directors of the Jordan Cement Factories Company. "Is our economy guided by the government or by the private sector?"

"We would prefer to have the government dilute its control over the private sector while intensifying its judicial observation of the economy," added Dr. Saket.

In a pre-conference address Saturday night attended by former Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali as the representative of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Dr. Saket noted that "many governments have increasingly shed their role as owners and managers of productive assets while increasing their regulatory and oversight functions."

"The objective of the seminar," said Dr. Saket, "is designed to reverse the historical role of the private sector to become more active in fostering economic development."

The EO summit, which is financed by the United States Agency for International Development with a \$25,000 grant and by the World Bank with a \$10,000 assistance package, was business throughout. Participants divided themselves into working groups dedicated to what some of them described as frank exchanges of the realities on the ground and to how to find solutions to hurdles.

Three distinct subjects were discussed: "The image problem" that is besetting the Jordanian private sector, "the legal" aspects as represented by potential concerns of international investors and external "financing." Recommendations over these issues are expected to be released at the end of the meeting on Monday.

Surveys conducted by the private sector have established that there is a serious "image" problem facing Jordanian businesses. As an international expert attending the meeting as an observer puts it, "His Majesty King Hussein is well-known all over the world, but Jordan is not."

As such, the group that discussed this issue dealt at length with what could be done to highlight what Jordan stands for, what it could offer and what it seeks to achieve.

On the second topic, "the legal" aspects, businessmen reviewed the potential concerns that influence investment decisions of international firms in terms of guarantees for protection and repatriation of capital and profits, taxation, laws and regulations related to foreign investments, bureaucratic procedures and labour laws and "civil security."

"In fact not many people outside Jordan know that the Kingdom offers better 'civil security' than many countries in Europe and U.S.," com-

(Continued on page 7)



Nabil Sawalha and Hisham Yanis in their play, 'Welcome Normalisation'

No 'Welcome Normalisation' in Israel; JWA still unhappy

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Actors Hisham Yanis and Nabil Sawalha have cancelled a planned trip to Israel to perform their famous play "Welcome Normalisation," but the Jordanian Writers Association (JWA) is still threatening to take action against Mr. Yanis.

Mr. Yanis, a scriptwriter and JWA member, is being considered for disciplinary action for his visit to Israel, Mr. Sawalha, an actor, is not a JWA member.

Mr. Yanis has refused to submit his resignation and insisted, in a letter written to the association, that he is not doing anything wrong.

"I refuse to resign because I believe in what I do," Mr. Yanis said in his reply to an association's letter demanding that he cancel all plans to visit Israel or perform there. "I'm not guilty and I'm not trying to hide."

But Basel Rafa'ieh, a member of the association's administrative council, said Mr. Yanis was violating the JWA's code of honour. "Anyone who does (violate the rules) should be expelled," he said.

According to Mr. Rafa'ieh, the fact that the duo made contacts with Beit Al Karah, an Israeli cultural institution, and signed a contract with them is in itself a violation of the code of honour adopted by the association's general assembly in August last year. The code of honour bans any contact with any person or body that represents or has relations with any Israeli organisation.

"Even his (Mr. Yanis) visit to Israel is in violation of the internal (JWA) regulations," Mr. Rafa'ieh said. "He made contacts with Zionist institutions."

Mr. Yanis and Mr. Sawalha visited Israel last month "to pay a visit to the theatres there," Mr. Sawalha said in a letter to the editor to the daily Al Aswaq newspaper. He added that a report published in Al Aswaq about his visit and a statement attributed to him by the Israeli newspaper Yediot Achronot were not true.

In an Aug. 26 report without a dateline, Al Aswaq quoted the two artists as telling Yediot Achronot that Israeli women were beautiful.

"This is fabricated news," said Mr. Sawalha in the letter to the editor. "We have not made any comment on Israeli women, nor have we spoken to any journalist except for the Jaffa-based Arab Union newspaper."

"We decided to cancel our visit to Israel because of the false information published in the Yediot Achronot report," he wrote.

The Jordan Writers Association expelled member Hamadeh Fara'neh earlier this year for having "talked" to Israeli television. The association also attempted to file a complaint against Jordanian Television for shooting the Friday morning programme, "Good Morning in Jaffa and Nazareth." A member of the association's administrative council also called for boycotting the Jerash Festival this year for hosting an Arab-Israeli group from Nazareth.

"It was a preface towards normalisation with Israel," Mr. Rafa'ieh said. "Next year, they might host Israeli groups."

But the two proposals were voted down.



ENVOYS PRESENT CREDENTIALS: His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday receives the credentials of Japanese Ambassador Takayuki Kimura (above) and Canadian Ambassador Michel de Salaberry in separate ceremonies held at the Royal Court (Petra photos)



Anti-nuclear hijacker held

GENEVA (Agencies) — Police at Geneva airport overpowered Sunday a hijacker who had threatened to blow up a French airliner to protest against France's plans to resume nuclear testing in the South Pacific.

The hijacker was described by authorities at the airport of Palma de Majorca where the flight originated as "a Spaniard aged between 30 and 35 who wants to protest against French nuclear tests in the Pacific."

He took over the plane as it flew over Bordeaux on its way to Orly airport just outside Paris.

In a message to air traffic controllers in Barcelona he threatened to blow up the aircraft in mid-air and demanded a halt to France's plans to carry out nuclear tests, sources said.

According to one of the controllers, Ramon Bofill, the hijacker said other aircraft could suffer the same fate. He gave no indication as to whether he belonged to any group or was carrying any weapons.

In Paris a spokesman for Air Inter said the aircraft was operating the company's

Flight 4617 which had left Palma at 11:35 a.m. (0935 GMT) and had been due at Orly at 12:55 p.m. (1055 GMT).

The plane, an Airbus 300, was carrying 292 passengers and a crew of 10. After being diverted towards Toulouse and Tyon the pilot was told to land at Geneva, touching down at 1:20 p.m. (1120 GMT).

The Spanish news agency EFE reported from Barcelona that the hijacking occurred in Spanish airspace and that the hijacker had threatened to blow up the plane.

The plane sent out an emergency code shortly after takeoff, EFE reported, quoting Mr. Bofill.

Mr. Bofill said the hijacker spoke "perfect Spanish" with an air traffic controller and demanded that the plane fly either to Amsterdam or to a Swiss airport.

"He said that he was demanding the French government stop nuclear testing in the South Pacific and threatened that he could blow up the aircraft and that this could happen to other aircraft as well," Mr. Bofill told EFE.

France plans to resume nuclear testing in the South Pacific sometime this month following a three-year moratorium, a decision which has provoked international protests.

Once on the ground the hijacker demanded to meet two journalists, one French and one Swiss, who were to wear short-sleeved shirts, and a representative of the Spanish government.

Airport sources said he referred to French nuclear tests, the subject of widespread international condemnation, but said "his demand was not very clear."

The head of Geneva airport, Jean-Philippe Maitre, said the hijacker was a 33-year-old Spaniard from Palma who did not seem to "have all his personal balance."

About an hour after landing the passengers, who included French, Spanish and Chilean citizens as well as 11 Japanese, were freed though the crew remained aboard. Half an hour later police took control of the plane.

Egypt to take action against Sudan

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said on Sunday his country was preparing to take unspecified steps against Sudan, which Cairo believes was behind an attempt to kill Mr. Mubarak in June in Ethiopia.

Mr. Mubarak, speaking to reporters after talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, gave no details of the actions but said they would be taken after Foreign Minister Amr Musa's visit to Addis Ababa on Monday.

"Some measures will be taken against Sudan," Mr. Mubarak said. Ethiopia has accused Sudan of harbouring three of the men involved in the attack, despite Sudanese denials.

Meanwhile two Sudanese doctors working with a Sudanese Islamic relief agency in the Ethiopian capital were gunned down in their car outside their residence on Saturday, a Sudanese diplomat said.

Hamid Hassad Al Rouish, second secretary at the Sudanese embassy, told Reuters an unidentified gunman shot dead the two doctors in front of their residence in downtown Addis Ababa on Saturday.

The two victims, Dr. Abdulla Al Gaali and Mohammad Al Fathi Yousef, were working for the Islamic Relief Agency, an organisation set up by the fundamentalist movement which dominates the Sudanese government.

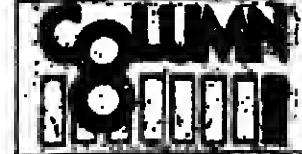
Ethiopian officials made no statement on the attack. Relations between Ethiopia and Sudan have been strained since June, when Mr. Mubarak narrowly escaped assassination as he arrived to attend the annual summit of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

On Friday Ethiopia ordered all non-governmental aid organisations linked directly or indirectly to Sudan to cease operations and their Sudanese staff to leave within a week.

Mr. Musa, who returned to Cairo late Saturday from a European and African tour, said the move showed that "it has been proved to Ethiopia that the Sudanese regime was involved" in the June 26 attack.

He added he had put off until Monday a visit to Addis Ababa which had been scheduled for Saturday, the first top-level trip since gunmen attacked Mr. Mubarak's motorcade.

Egypt's Ambassador to Addis Ababa Magdi Hefni said the measures were "appreciated."



Bobbitt ad to be reviewed

LONDON (AP) — An advertisement comparing seal slaughter to John Bobbitt's castration will be reviewed by Britain's Advertising Standards Authority, a newspaper reported Sunday. The ad, published last week in London's time out listing magazine by the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), features what IFAW claims is an actual photo of Bobbitt's severed penis. "When it happened to John Wayne Bobbitt, it got worldwide exposure," the ad said. "When it happens to 10,000 seals, it gets slightly coverage." IFAW claims that Canadian sealers, who kill a regulated 10,000 seals a year, sell the penises to the Chinese, who believe it to be an aphrodisiac. It urges a boycott of Canadian fish products, saying "hit Canadian fishermen where it hurts." Canadian sealers lodged a complaint with the Advertising Standards Authority, saying the ad was "obscene and misleading." The Sunday Telegraph reported. It quoted Canadian Sealers Association spokeswoman Tina Fagan as saying "We never castrate the seals. Lorena Bobbitt cut off her husband's penis while he slept in 1993, claiming he had abused her. It was later retracted."

Charles will not open Skye Bridge

LONDON (AFP) — A bridge linking the Scottish mainland with the Isle of Skye would have made things easier for Bonnie Prince Charlie, but Prince Charles will have none of it. Prince Charles will boycott the opening of the concrete bridge connecting the Hebridean Island with the British's northwestern mainland because he believes it blights the landscape, the Express newspaper reported Sunday. The paper quoted unidentified sources close to Prince Charles as saying that the bridge offends his well-known architectural sensibility, which rejects much modern work. He has said in the past that Scotland is "blighted" by modern concrete bridges. "Bonnie Prince Charlie — the last prince of Wales named Charles — was the final Stuart pretender to the British throne, and was hid by loyal Scotsmen after an unsuccessful invasion of England launched from Scotland. In 1746, Flora MacDonald spirited him in a boat across the choppy Northern Atlantic waters to Skye, a rescue recounted in a popular Scottish folk song."

Hospital to fire bungling doctor

NEW YORK (R) — New York City's prestigious Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre plans to fire its top neurosurgeon for bungling a brain operation on the mother of India's biggest movie star Sridevi, hospital officials said. The hospital said it had advised Dr. Ehud Arbib that they intend to dismiss him for failing to correctly identify the patient before surgery and performing the wrong operation on 59-year-old Rajeswari Ayyappan, mother of the famous Indian movie star, it said in a statement. "This action is painful, but necessary," Dr. Joseph Simone, the hospital's physician-in-chief, said in the statement. "After a thorough examination of the record, we have concluded Dr. Arbib failed to meet Memorial Hospital's standard of care." In the May 26 operation, Dr. Arbib was supposed to remove a malignant tumour from the left lobe of Ms. Ayyappan's brain. Instead, he operated on her healthy right lobe after mistaking her for another patient, the hospital said. "Dr. Arbib discovered the error during surgery," the hospital said. Dr. Arbib's lawyer, David Hoffman, said in Saturday's New York Daily News that the mixup was not the surgeon's fault. According to the lawyer, Dr. Arbib, 48, thought that the patient was another Indian patient and said he was not told differently even when he asked her family about her identity. Mr. Hoffman said his client was expecting another patient from India the same day for a right-brain operation and when he met with Ms. Ayyappan and her family, they never challenged him when he used the name of the other patient.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Michael Jackson considers Arab tour

DUBAI (AFP) — U.S. pop star Michael Jackson has been invited to Morocco and was considering an Arab tour, his first ever, he told Arabic Weekly TV. The singer, who had cancelled a concert in Dubai last year because of a child abuse charges brought against him, told the London-based publication that he "seriously thinks about meeting the Arab public." Mr. Jackson, who has not set a date for his Moroccan concert, also said he could use Arabic tunes in his songs, according to excerpts of the interview received here. The entire interview is to be published Monday.

Minister under death threat in Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — Education Minister Hussein Kamel Bahaeddin said Saturday he had received death threats for punishing teachers who broke the law and gave private lessons. "I received death threats from the private tuition 'mafia' who accused me of penalising teachers who give pupils individual lessons," he told education officials. He said "this mafia" had distributed leaflets "calling for my assassination if I continue to fight against individual lessons." He said he had called in the security services who had questioned several teachers. Earlier this year Mr. Bahaeddin disciplined or transferred 200 teachers into administrative jobs after they gave individual lessons.

Morocco seizes 4 tonnes of cannabis resin

CASABLANCA (R) — Moroccan police have seized four tonnes of cannabis resin hidden under scrap iron in a Hamburg-bound shipping container, an official source said on Saturday. The drugs, with a street value of 40 million dirhams (\$4.8 million), were found during a routine check at the port of Casablanca. "Four tonnes of Moroccan cannabis resin were hidden in plastic bags under the scrap-iron," the source said. No arrests were made but a police investigation was under way. Casablanca port is one of the main points through which drugs produced in Morocco are smuggled abroad. Cannabis is grown in the remote Rif mountains of northern Morocco. Three thousand security forces have been stationed in the area: dubbed cannabis crescent, since 1993 to stamp out trafficking in hashish and cannabis resin. More than 10,000 people were arrested for possession of cannabis resin in Morocco

in 1994, according to official figures. More than 600 foreigners, most of them Europeans, are jailed across Morocco for drug trafficking.

3 Palestinian children injured in blast

RAMALLAH (AFP) — Three Palestinian children were injured when an abandoned mine near an Israeli base on the occupied West Bank exploded, witnesses said Sunday. Two brothers, aged 15 and 11, and their nine-year-old friend were playing around 100 metres from the base in Boudros village near Ramallah on Saturday when the mine exploded. The three were lightly wounded and taken to hospital in Ramallah.

Israel expels two Iraqi 'infiltrators'

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel has sent two Iraqis to Jordan after they sneaked into the Jewish state, Israeli radio said. The two armed men crossed the Israel-Jordan border on Friday near the town of Sedom, in southern Israel, where they were found separately by builders and handed to police, the radio said Saturday. About 30 Iraqis have infiltrated into Israel in the past few years, but most are turned back to Jordan. The others are imprisoned, before being expelled to a host country.

Opposition welcomes Sudan dialogue

KHARTOUM (AFP) — The Sudanese opposition Umma party welcomed on Sunday a proposed dialogue with the government after the release last week of its leader Sadeq Al Mahdi. Abdul Rasul Nur, a close aide of Dr. Mahdi, was quoted in the daily Al Rai Al Akher as saying that the present time "was suitable for conducting a dialogue to restore consensus on fundamental and pressing issues." Mr. Nur said the release of Dr. Mahdi and 31 opposition figures last week, along with the government's promise to release 18 more showed the government's "desire to listen to other viewpoints." But Mr. Nur said Khartoum had not contacted the Umma party to start a dialogue, which Dr. Mahdi proposed in an interview and the government said it welcomed. Dr. Mahdi, the former prime minister who was overthrown by current President Omar Al Beshir in 1989, was arrested three months ago.